

Vigil of Easter

20 April 2019

8 p.m.

As We Gather...

The Vigil of Easter, kept on the Eve of the Resurrection of Our Lord, culminates the sacred Triduum (Latin for "three days"). It brings to festive completion the three-day service that began on Holy (Maundy) Thursday and continued through Good Friday, and ushers in the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday. The vigil poignantly manifests this transition from the holy Triduum to the Fifty Days of Eastertide by progressing purposefully from darkness to light, celebrating specifically the passage of Christ from death to life as well as the Church's passage through death into life with Him through Holy Baptism.

In some places throughout the early centuries of the Church's life, the people of God would hold vigil (which means "keep watch") through the night in expectation of Christ's return. During the vigil, those who had prepared throughout Lent to be joined to Christ were baptized. At the dawn of the new day at Easter sunrise, the newly baptized joined the entire Church in the chorus of alleluias at Christ's resurrection from the dead. While making a vigil through the night may not be common today, Christians nonetheless gather on Holy Saturday to wait in expectation for the news of Christ's resurrection and for His second coming. The Easter Vigil is very much a Christian "Passover," that is, a celebration of the great exodus that Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God, accomplished by His sacrificial death and brought to light in His resurrection from the dead. All that the Lord God did for Israel in bringing His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land He has perfectly fulfilled for all the baptized, who are the new Israel, in His cross and resurrection. In particular, therefore, the Easter Vigil proclaims and confesses that as we have died with Christ by our Baptism into death, so do we also rise with Him and live with Him in newness of life.

As a service of watching that ushers in the resurrection, the Vigil of Easter is comprised of six parts: 1) the Service of Light; 2) the Service of Readings; 3) the Service of Holy Baptism; 4) the Service of Prayer; 5) the Service of the Word; 6) the Service of the Sacrament. Since we are not holding vigil through the whole night as in the time of the ancient Church, the Service of the Sacrament is not included in our Easter Vigil this evening, but is reserved for Easter morning itself. However, because the Vigil of Easter marks the final day in the sacred Triduum and ushers in our celebration of the Resurrection, the service ends with the Benediction (which has not been heard since the beginning of the Triduum) and the Easter Acclamation: Christ is risen!

Prayer before Worship...

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ. May His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. For You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation, and we, Your creatures, glorify You, for 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 Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son. 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF LIGHT ✠

INVOCATION, INVITATION, AND COLLECTS

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus 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.

P Let us pray. O God, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The pastor traces the cross on the paschal candle

P Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

The pastor traces the Greek letters Alpha and Omega on the candle

P the Alpha and the Omega.

The pastor traces the year on the candle

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

The pastor marks the five wax nails in the candle

P By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

The paschal candle is lit.

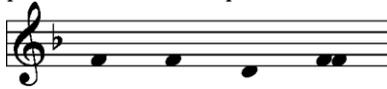
P May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

All light their candles from the paschal candle and then follow the paschal candle in procession into the darkened church.

The paschal candle stops at the entrance to the nave.



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

The paschal candle stops in the middle of the nave.



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.



When all have processed, the paschal candle is lifted high.



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

EXSULTET ~ Easter Proclamation

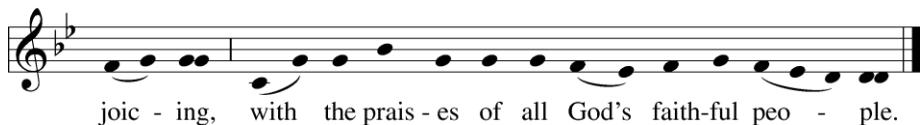
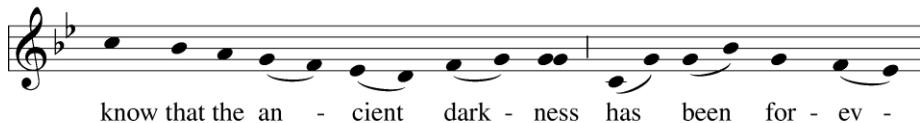
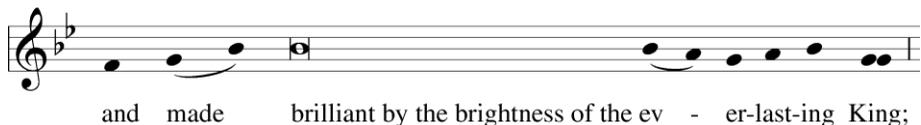
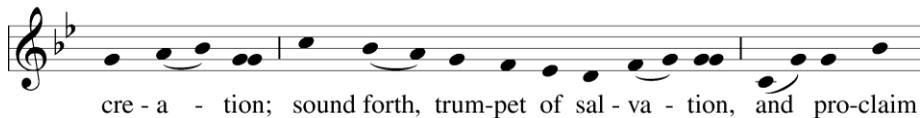
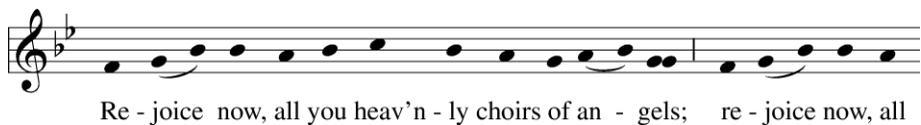
Tune: Lancashire (LSB 478)

**Rejoice you choirs of angels, Rejoice now loud and long;
The King has won the vict'ry; Creation join the song.
Christ's light with radiance brilliant Has banished darkness' reign;
Let all the faithful praise Him And sing the glad refrain.**

**Thanks be to God the Father, And to our Paschal Lamb,
For our release from bondage, From sin and death and shame.
Now dawns the new creation, Christ is alive today
His grace beyond all telling, Accept our thanks, we pray.**

**We praise You, Holy Father, With joy and bliss and good,
For Jesus, who has cleansed us With His most precious blood.
Lord, as You saved Your people By parting the Red Sea,
Now save us from sin's bondage Through Jesus' victory.**

**We praise and bless You, Jesus—You put evil to flight.
Your reconciliation You give us on this night.
Receive our glad thanksgiving—Our sacrifice of praise—
O Morning Star, our true light To You our hymn we raise.**



PREFACE



The Lord be with you.



And al-so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very 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 the 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.



A - men.

All extinguish their candles. The paschal candle remains lighted throughout the service.

Sit

✠ SERVICE OF READINGS ✠

- P** In 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 upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

THE CREATION *Genesis 1:1-2:3*

- P** A reading from Genesis, chapters one and two.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said,

- C** **“Let there be light,”**

- P** and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God 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,

- C** **“Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”**

- P** And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said,

- C** **“Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.”**

- P** And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said,

- C** **“Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.”**

- P** And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said,

- C** **“Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.”**

- P** And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said,

- C** “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.”
- P** So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying,
- C** “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”
- P** And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said,
- C** “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.”
- P** And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said,
- C** “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
- P** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them,
- C** “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
- P** And God said,
- C** “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.”
- P** And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.
- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

- P** Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

P A reading from Genesis, chapter 22.

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said,

C “Here I am.”

P He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men,

C “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.”

P And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said,

C “Here I am, my son.”

P He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said,

C “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.”

P So they went both of them together. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said,

C “Here I am.”

P He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place,

C “The Lord will provide”;

P as it is said to this day,

C “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

P And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

P Let us pray. O God, since You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

PSALM *Psalm 105:1-9*



Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name;*
make known his deeds among the | peoples!
Sing to him, sing prais- | es to him;*
tell of all his | wondrous works!
Glory in his | holy name;*
let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice!
Seek the LORD | and his strength;*
seek his presence con- | tinually!
Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,*
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,
O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,*
children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!
He is the | LORD our God;*
his judgments are in | all the earth.
He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations,
the covenant that he made with | Abraham,*
his sworn promise to | Isaac.

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10-15:1

P A reading from Exodus, chapters 14 and 15.

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses,

C “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”

P And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.” The LORD said to Moses, “Why

do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

C **And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.**

P The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said,

C **“Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”**

P Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained.

C **But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.**

P Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

C **“I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”**

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

COLLECT

P Let us pray. O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

CANTICLE *Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18*



I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed | gloriously;*
the horse and his rider He has thrown in- | to the sea.
The LORD is my strength | and my song,*
and He has become my sal- | vation;
this is my God, and I will | praise Him,*
my father's God, and I will ex- | alt Him.
The LORD is a | man of war;*
the LORD | is His name.
Pharaoh's chariots and his host He cast in- | to the sea,*
and his chosen officers were sunk in the | Red Sea.
The floods | covered them;*
they went down into the depths | like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,*
Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.
Who is like You, O LORD, a- | mong the gods?*Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing | wonders?
You stretched out Your | right hand;*
the earth | swallowed them.
You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You | have redeemed;*
You have guided them by Your strength to Your ho- | ly abode.
You will bring them in and plant them on Your own | mountain,*
the place, O LORD, which You have made for | Your abode,
the sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have es- | tablished.*
The LORD will reign forever and | ever.

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

P A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 37.

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me,

C “Son of man, can these bones live?”

P And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me,

C “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

P So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were

sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me,

C “**Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.**”

P So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. Then he said to me,

C “**Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.**”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

COLLECT

P Let us pray. O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam’s children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

CANTICLE *Psalm 51:8-15*



Let me hear joy and | gladness,*
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.
Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all my in- | iquities.
Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,*
and sinners will re- | turn to you.
Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my sal- | vation,*
and my tongue will sing aloud of your | righteousness.
O Lord, open | my lips,*
and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.

JONAH PREACHES TO NINEVEH *Jonah 1:1-2:1; 2:10-4:11*

P A reading from Jonah, chapters one, two, three, and four.

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.” And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” And he said to them,

C **“I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”**

P Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. He said to them,

C **“Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.”**

P Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they called out to the Lord, “O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.” So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish. And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land. Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out,

C **“Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”**

P And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.” When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the Lord and said,

C **“O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”**

P And the Lord said, “Do you do well to be angry?” Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said,

C **“It is better for me to die than to live.”**

P But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said,

C **“Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.”**

P And the Lord said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

COLLECT

P Let us pray. O God, as the prophet Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so Your Son Jesus spent three days in the heart of the earth. Grant us repentance to embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism and to proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

CANTICLE *Jonah 2:2-9*



I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and He | answered me;*
out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You | heard my voice.
For You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood sur- | rounded me;*
all Your waves and Your billows passed | over me.
Then I said, “I am driven away | from Your sight;*
yet I shall again look upon Your holy | temple.”
The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep sur- | rounded me;*
weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the | mountains.
I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me for- | ever;*
yet You brought up my life from the pit, O | LORD my God.
When my life was fainting away, I remembered | the LORD,*
and my prayer came to You, into Your holy | temple.
Those who pay regard to vain | idols*
forsake their hope of | steadfast love.
But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to You; what I have vowed | I will pay.*
Salvation belongs | to the LORD!

THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3:1-30

P A reading from Daniel, chapter 3.

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.” Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men,

O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?” Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king,

C “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

P Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.” Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. Nebuchadnezzar answered and said,

C “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.”

P Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

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

C Amen.

The SONG OF THE THREE YOUNG MEN, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Benedicite, Omnia Opera) is sung to conclude the Service of Readings. The paschal candle is carried to the baptismal font during the canticle.

CANTICLE *All You Works of God, Bless the Lord*
Trio - Verses and First Refrain
Congregation - Refrain after verses 2-6

LSB 930



1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
2 Sing, you sun and you moon a - bove,
3 Frost of win - ter with song so cold,
4 Hills and moun - tains, now sing His worth,



All you an - gels, now bless the Lord;
Stars of heav - en, now sing His love;
Dews of sum - mer, your song un - fold;
All you green things that grow on earth;



Come, you heav - ens and pow'rs that be,
Dew and show - ers, you winds that blow,
Light and dark - ness, you day and night,
Seas and riv - ers, you springs and wells,



Praise the Lord and His maj - es - ty:
Heat and fire, and you ice and snow:
Clouds of thun - der, you light - nings bright:
Beasts and cat - tle, you birds and whales:

Refrain

Raise your voice - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,
 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
 Raise your voice - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,
 All you works of God, bless the Lord!

5 Come, humanity, sing along,
 Sing, you people of God, a song;
 Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,
 Join, you spirits and souls at rest: **Refrain**

Δ 6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;
 All you humble, His praise impart;
 God the Father and Son adore,
 Bless the Spirit forevermore! **Refrain**



✠ SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM ✠

BAPTISMAL ADDRESS

☐ On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

THE FLOOD PRAYER

P Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin. We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

RENUNCIATION

P Do you renounce the devil?

C Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?

C Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways?

C Yes, I renounce them.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

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

P 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P 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.

Sit

CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM

Kingston John Huff

Rownan James Huff

Emery Berniece Huff

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of the candidate while saying:

- P** Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

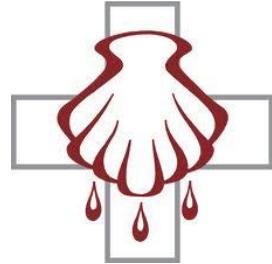
The pastor addresses the candidate:

- P** How are you named?

R Name

- P** Name, do you desire to be baptized?

R *Yes, I do.*



The pastor pours water three times on the head of the candidate while saying:

- P** Name, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

- P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has give 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 pastor may give the candidate a white cloth while saying:

- P** Receive this white cloth to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you before the foundation of the world.

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

- P** Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

- P** Peace ✠ be with you.

C **Amen.**

CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

Braden Lewis Huff

Elizabeth Ashley (Bowersock) Huff

The pastor addresses the candidates for confirmation:

P You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

R *I do.*

P Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and to receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing and passage of Holy Scripture. The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:

P *Name*, the almighty God and 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.

R *Amen.*

Addressing the entire congregation, the pastor says:

P The almighty God and 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.*

P Peace † be with you.

C *Amen.*

HYMN

O Perfect Life of Love

LSB 452



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all, is fin - ished now,
 2 No work is left un - done Of all the Fa - ther willed;
 3 No pain that we can share But He has felt its smart;
 4 And on His thorn - crowned head And on His sin - less soul
 5 In per - fect love He dies; For me He dies, for me.



All that He left His throne a - bove To do for us be - low.
 His toil, His sor - rows, one by one, The Scrip - tures have ful - filled.
 All forms of hu - man grief and care Have pierced that ten - der heart.
 Our sins in all their guilt were laid That He might make us whole.
 O all - a - ton - ing Sac - ri - fice, I cling by faith to Thee.

6 In ev'ry time of need,
 Before the judgment throne,
 Thy work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
 Thy merits, not mine own.

7 Yet work, O Lord, in me
 As Thou for me hast wrought;
 And let my love the answer be
 To grace Thy love has brought.

Stand

✠ SERVICE OF PRAYER ✠

LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

- P** O Lord,
C have mercy.
- P** O Christ,
C have mercy.
- P** O Lord,
C have mercy.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C hear us.
- P** Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
C have mercy on us.
- P** Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
C have mercy on us.
- P** Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"
C have mercy on us.
- P** Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,
C have mercy on us.
- P** Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
C have mercy on us.
- P** Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
C have mercy on us.
- P** Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,
C have mercy on us.
- P** Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
C have mercy on us.
- P** Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
C have mercy on us.
- P** Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
C have mercy on us.
- P** Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,
C have mercy on us.

- P** Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** By Your victory over sin and death,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** By the majesty of Your risen body,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, Lord Jesus.**
- P** That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
- P** That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been served by You,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
- P** That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **grant us Your peace.**
- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy. Amen.**



✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray. O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 16:1-8*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

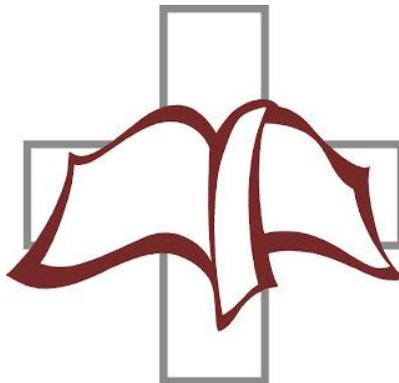
C Glory to You, O Lord.

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus]. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

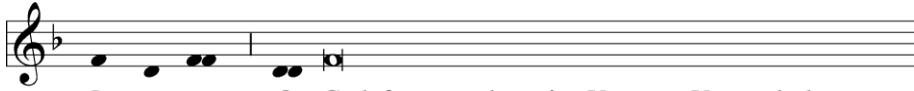
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

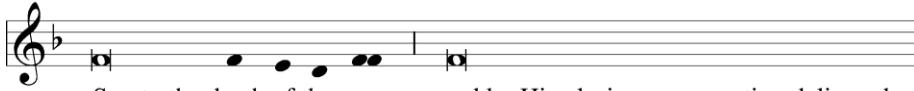
HOMILY



COLLECT



Let us pray. O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten



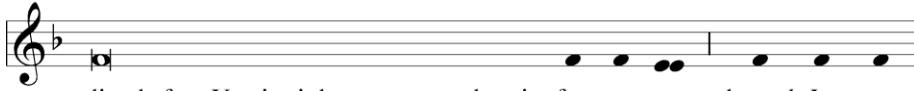
Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered



us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be



drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to



live before You in righteousness and purity for - ev - er; through Je - sus



Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,



one God, now and for - ev - er.



A - men.



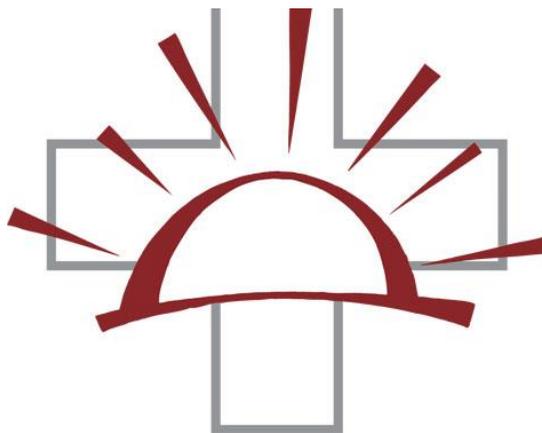
BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION



EASTER ACCLAMATION

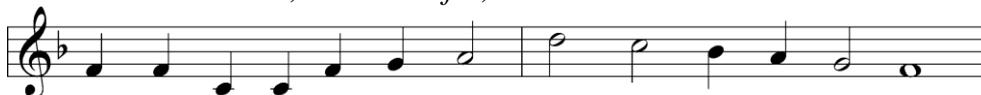
P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



HYMN OF PRAISE *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

LSB 487



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad-ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
4 For to - day a-mong His own Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;
With the roy - al feast of feasts Comes its joy to ren - der;
His deep peace, which ev - er-more Pass - es hu - man know - ing.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
Comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts Which with true af - fec - tion
Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
Nor the watch-ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.

**5 Alleluia! Now we cry
To our King immortal,
Who, triumphant, burst the bars
Of the tomb's dark portal.
Come, you faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel
Into joy from sadness!**

