

The Great Three Days Holy Week 2024

Thurs. 7:30 PM; Fri. 7:30 PM; Sat. 7:30 PM

The Great Three Days

The Great Three Days—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Saturday's Great Vigil of Easter—though chronologically three days and seemingly three services, are actually liturgically a single, long service that gradually unfolds the unified mystery of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection.

Each evening we will hear part of the great drama and will experience once more the mighty acts of God in Christ Jesus, the Savior of the World. As much as we might want to, we cannot go straight to the glory of Easter and resurrection without first passing through the way of fellowship and mutual servanthood, the dark night of betrayal, the long day of suffering, the death on the Cross, the sealing of the tomb, and the anguished, numb waiting of Jesus' friends as they wonder what comes next ... and as they begin to realize the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

These services are wonderfully participatory, and make use of all the senses. We invite you to enter into the drama, responding with your whole being to the awesome story of salvation.

Maundy Thursday

Agape Meal with Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar March 28, 2024, 7:30 PM



About tonight's worship...

This is the first of the Great Three Days: Holy Thursday, or "Maundy" Thursday. The word "maundy" was a garbled pronunciation of *mandatum*, the Latin for word for "commandment." As we will hear in tonight's Gospel reading, it is on this night, as Jesus enjoys a final meal with his friends, that he gives "a new commandment"—the commandment to love one another just as Jesus has loved us. Jesus gives this commandment as he gives up his role as master, and stoops as a humble servant to wash the feet of those who by rights should be washing his feet. This willingness to lovingly bend and serve one another is the very last message that Jesus wants to leave with his followers. That is the core of the Good News for the first part of this evening.

For those who wish, Pastor Mark will lay on hands and pronounce individual absolution for sins as we come to the end of Lent, the time of repentance, and as we prepare for the joy of Easter. We will sing together, pray together, and hear the words of scripture together. Then the ministers will lead us in washing one another's hands or feet as we live out the reality that we are servants to one another. And then, just as Jesus and his friends did that night, we will share the Lord's Supper together.

And then, just as Jesus and his disciples sang a song and went out into the night to go pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, we will enter into a time of prayerful meditation, followed by the solemn stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday as a psalm is sung. We strip away all those adornments that might distract us from our focus on the Cross that lies ahead. And then we go out into the night to wait to hear the next part of the story.

Serving in worship this evening...

Presiding Minister	Pr. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister	Anne Heider
Lector	
Acolyte	
Table Preparation	Corbin Treadwell
Music Director	
Organist	Christine Kraemer
Zoom Host	Bert Mount
Audio-Visual Technicians	Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel
Ushers and Greeters	Terri Hummel, Nicolai Schousboe

P: Presiding Minister A: Assembly L: Leader R: Reader C: Choir The Assembly stands as directed.

Prelude

"Nocturne" by Germaine Tailleferre

Confession and Forgiveness

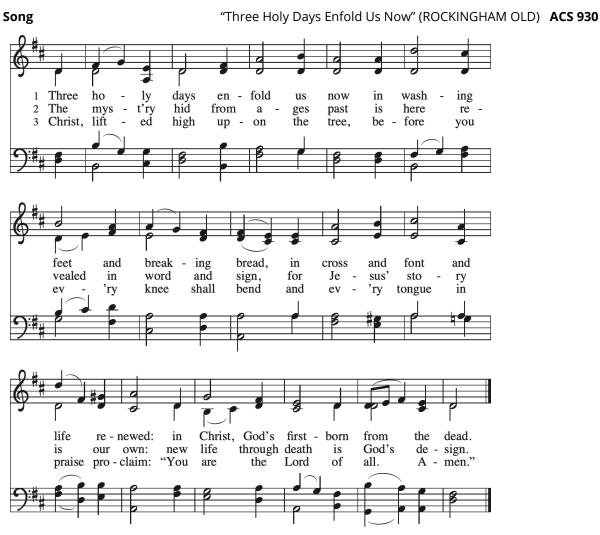
P Our loving Parent never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

All keep silence after each petition for reflection and self-examination.

- L Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples; we ask for your mercy and your help; our thoughtlessness and selfishness betrays you.
- P Lord, forgive us.
- A Christ, have mercy.
- L We fail to share the pain of your suffering, or the suffering of those around us.
- P Lord, forgive us.
- A Christ, have mercy.
- L We run away from those who heap scorn upon you, and from those who abuse the least of these.
- P Lord, forgive us.
- A Christ, have mercy.
- L We are afraid of being known to belong to you.
- P Lord, forgive us.
- A Christ, have mercy.
- P God loved the world in this way: He gave the only Son, in order that whoever believes in him should not perish, but should have eternal life. In the name of 🕂 Jesus Christ, and for his sake, your sins are forgiven. May the servant Lord who loves us even to death on a cross, have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.
- A Amen.

Individual Absolution with Laying on of Hands

During the singing of the hymn, all those who desire to receive the laying on of hands and individual absolution are invited to come forward and to kneel as the minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each person in turn: "In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins." You may respond: **Amen.**



Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- A And also with you!

Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray... Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- A Amen.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

R A reading from Exodus.

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs.¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

- R Word of God, word of life.
- A Thanks be to God!

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

The organ will play the tone through. The organ will only accompany the first two verses. The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses. The organ accompanies the first two verses and the remaining verses are sung unaccompanied.



R A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- R Word of God, word of life.
- A Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

P The holy gospel according to John.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Judeans so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Gospel Acclamation is sung once again. The Assembly is then seated.

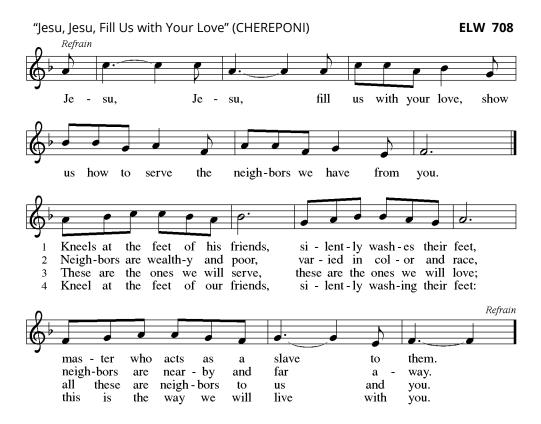
Sermon

Washing of One Another's Hands and Feet

The ministers will lead the Assembly in a rite of washing either hands or feet. You may wash the hands of other family members who come forward with you, or the ministers will wash you. All those who wish to participate may come forward to either the hand- or foot-washing station. Please wait until a station is open to come forward for the rite. During this time, the Assembly sings.

Songs During the Washing "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" (THE SERVANT SONG) ELW 659





Prayers of the People

- L Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. [A brief silence.]
- L God who kneels to wash our feet, gather your church around the world during this holy week. Humble the powerful and lift up any who are marginalized. Renew our faith and make us bold in service and love to our neighbors. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L God who blesses the grain of the soil and the fruit of the vine, inspire in us a reverent care for the earth. Sustain fields, gardens, and wild places, that all people are fed and every living thing flourishes. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

- L God whose greatest commandment is love, guide all who govern by the principle of love. Transform unjust human systems that oppress some for the gain of others. Restore communities as places of justice and concern for those who are vulnerable. Merciful God,
- A receive our prayer.

L God who was betrayed, comfort people everywhere who have suffered abuse at the hands of someone they knew and trusted. Heal the bodies, minds, and hearts of victims of exploitation. Help all in pain to know that you are near, especially Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Joel Brown, Kathy Hermann, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Nancy Lang, Jim McCarthy, Elaine Nelson, Darryl Rohrer, and those we name now aloud or in our hearts [...]. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L God who sits at the table with us, grant the joy of your presence to people celebrating first communion today, and to all who share the meal. Strengthen communities of faith in grace and courage. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L And now, sisters and brothers, for what else shall we pray?

The Assembly is invited to offer thanksgivings and petitions.

Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

- L God who brings new life out of death, we pray with thanks for the lives of those who have joined the communion of saints, especially Hans Nielsen Hauge. In our holy meal, connect us to the faithful who have gone before us, and nourish us as your people living today. Merciful God,
- A receive our prayer.
- P Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.
- A Amen.

Peace

P Jesus says to his friends, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you." May the peace of Christ be with you always.

A And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of Christ, saying "Peace be with you," "The peace of the Lord," or similar words.

The Assembly is seated.

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ ...

Offering An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need. You scan this code with your smartphone camera to make your financial offering online.

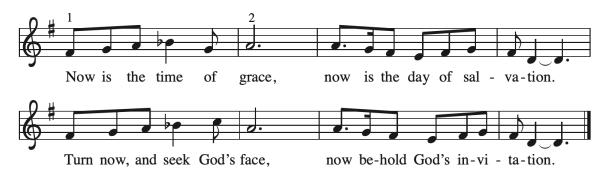
Offering Music

Ubi caritas By Ola Gjeilo

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exultemus, et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

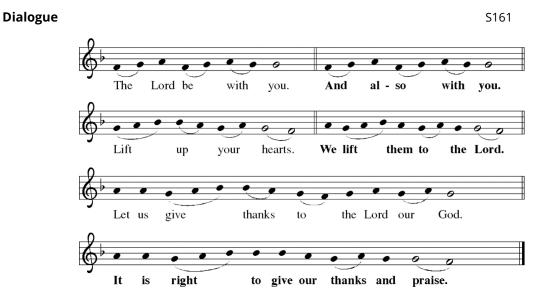
Presentation of Gifts "Now Is the Time of Grace" (NOW IS THE TIME OF GRACE) **ACS 918** *The Assembly stands and sings twice as the gifts are brought forward.*



Offering Prayer

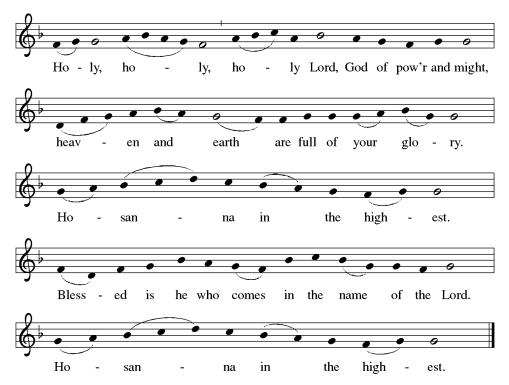
- Let us pray. [Pause] Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
 Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness.
 Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.
 We pray this in your name.
- A Amen

The Great Thanksgiving



Preface

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Thanksgiving at the Table

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Ρ you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



P Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

A 🎍 Amen

Α

P Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
 to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
 with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
 Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

A Amen

- P Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
 Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
- Α

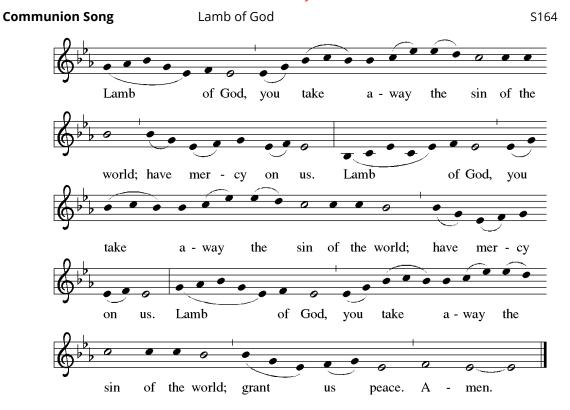


The Lord's Prayer

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come, your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

- P Bread for the journey.A feast for hungry hearts. Come!
- A 🎍 May we be filled with your presence.



The Assembly is seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

For those who are communing with the packets or online, the pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you."

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements.

P This is the body of Christ, given for you. All communing remotely or with individual packets may partake of the bread.

P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All communing remotely or with individual packets may drink of their cup. When you receive the elements, you may respond by saying, "Amen.".

Communion HymnWhere Charity and Love Prevail (TWENTY-FOURTH)ELW 359



The Assembly stands as directed.

Blessing after Communion

- P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.
- A Amen.

Prayer after Communion

 Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection.
 May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

Silence for Meditation

Psalm 88

Sara Krentz & Kevin McDaniel

Stripping of the Altar

The sanctuary is stripped of all adornment as we strip away all that might distract us from our focus on the central mystery of our faith: the Cross of Christ. The Assembly sits in awe and silence during the singing of the Psalm, marveling at the mighty thing that God has done as we enter into Good Friday.

After the Ministers leave the sanctuary, the Assembly may depart in silence.

Good Friday

March 29, 2024, 7:30 PM



About tonight's worship...

Throughout his ministry Jesus turned things on their heads: the last became first, the poor were blessed, the blind could see. In parable and miracle Jesus brought a dominion that was set against the kingdoms of this world. In the circumstances of his death, he did away with the accepted structures of power and weakness, justice and retribution. Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate manifestation of the paradox of the dominion of God: the king who only days before rode triumphantly into the royal city is now crucified as a criminal. The Messiah is a suffering servant. The Son of God is willing to die so that we might live.

John's gospel tells the story of how God accomplished, in Jesus, the fulfillment of scriptural prophecy about the one who would bring God's people into reconciliation with God's own self. We will hear a translation that minimizes the anti-semitic bent of John's gospel. In the story of the passion, Jesus' inexorable journey toward the cross, which is the culmination of this prophecy, picks up speed. Then, with Jesus' dying breath, the journey is over. With the words "It is finished," or better translated, "It is accomplished," Jesus' mission is complete. His passion and his suffering are finished; the centuries-long wait for the Messiah is finished. God's ultimate disruption of our efforts to save ourselves, and the astounding reversal of human expectations, is accomplished.

On this evening, as we meditate on the consequences of God's sacrifice, the church proclaims the good news that the Cross of Christ is not only necessary, but also sufficient for our salvation. With the command of Maundy Thursday lingering in our ears and hearts, Good Friday reminds us that the freedom to obey Jesus comes as a gift from God through the Cross of Christ. At the Cross, our old life of captivity to sin is finished, and our new life of discipleship begins.

In our worship, we cry out with the psalmist, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?", the same words that Jesus cries out on the Cross. We pray for the whole world that Christ came to redeem. We stand in reverence and then bow in awe as the Cross is brought before our eyes. We hear the Crucified One speak to us in the ancient words of the Solemn Reproaches, challenging us for the ways in which we fail to live as people of the Cross and of the Resurrection. We then contemplate the Cross on which was hung the Savior of the whole world. We then sing a song of praise, hear a loud sound to symbolize the stone sealing the tomb, and when we are ready, we depart.

Thanks be to God, Good Friday and the Cross are not the end of the story. Tonight's liturgy is a continuation of last evening's worship, and is completed tomorrow evening as we gather for the Great Vigil, where we will hear the stories of God's saving acts throughout all of history, and then will join in the feast as we hear the great good news of the Resurrection proclaimed. Please join us!

Serving in worship this evening...

Presiding Minister Assisting Minister	
Lector	
Cantor	James Morehead
Music Director	Christine Kraemer
Zoom Host	Jerry Larson
Audio-Visual Technician	Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel
Ushers	Joe & Terri Simchak

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

P: Presiding Minister **L**: Leader/Assisting Minister **R**: Reader **C**: Choir **A**: Assembly *I*: All may make the sign of the cross.

All gather in silence. The Assembly stands when the Ministers stand.

Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray. *[pause]* Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- A Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13--53:12

¹³See, my servant shall prosper;

he shall be exalted and lifted up,

and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him

-so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,

and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵so he shall startle many nations;

kings shall shut their mouths because of him;

for that which had not been told them they shall see,

and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant,

and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;

and as one from whom others hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases: vet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich,

although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,

he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light;

he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,

and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

The Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God

Psalm 22

The organ will play the tone, and then the refrain, and then the Assembly will sing the refrain through. The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses. All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."

Tone:



¹³They open wide their ¹ jaws at me,

like a slashing and [|] roaring lion.

- ¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones are [|] out of joint; my heart within my breast is [|] melting wax.
- ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof ¹ of my mouth; and you have laid me in the ¹ dust of death.

¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers ¹ circles round me; they pierce my hands ¹ and my feet. R

¹⁷I can count [|] all my bones

while they stare at [|] me and gloat.

¹⁸They divide my gar- [|] ments among them;

for my clothing, [|] they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not [|] far away; O my help, hasten [|] to my aid.

²⁰Deliver me | from the sword, my life from the power | of the dog.

²¹Save me from the ¹ lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have [|] rescued me.

²²I will declare your name | to my people;

in the midst of the assembly | I will praise you. R

 23 You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's $^{|}$ line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- [|] den from them;

but when they cry out, [|] the Lord hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the ¹ great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who [|] fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat [|] and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

 ^{27}All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn $^{|}$ to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow [|] before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs | to the LORD,

who rules o- [|] ver the nations. R

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow ¹ down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- I fore the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall | serve the Lord,

whom they shall proclaim to genera- [|] tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people [|] yet unborn, saying to them, "The [|] LORD has acted!" **R**

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25

[After the Holy Spirit says,] 16"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,

and I will write them on their minds,"

17he also adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

18Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

19Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, 20by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), 21and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. 24And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, 25not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord

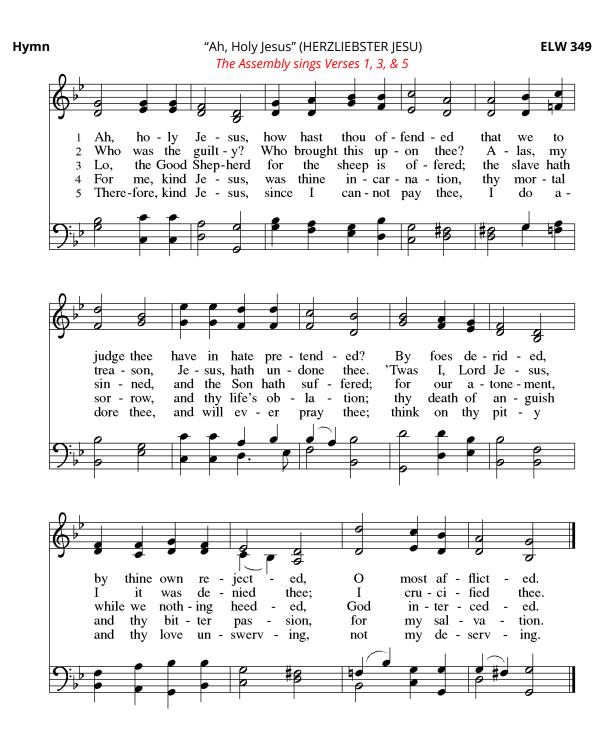
A Thanks be to God!

THE PASSION OF JESUS ACCORDING TO JOHN 18:1-19:42

We will hear a translation that minimizes the anti-semitic bent of John's gospel. We remain seated for the reading.

- P The Holy Gospel according to John.
- A Glory to you, O Lord.

John 18:1-27





"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN) **ELW 351** *The Assembly sings Verses 1 & 4*



Hymn

"Were You There" (WERE YOU THERE)

ELW 353

The Assembly sings verses 1-3.



John 19:38-42

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

Time of Silence

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection on the passion of our Lord. During this time, you may want to meditate on one word from the scriptures or from the sermon that stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life. When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word with song.

Hymn "Were You There" (WERE YOU THERE)

ELW 353

The Assembly sings verses 4 & 5.

Bidding Prayer

The Ministers kneel. The Assembly is seated, bowed in a posture of worship. After the Assisting Minister invites you to prayer with each petition, please pray silently for that need.

- L Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world. [Silent prayer.]
- P Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

- L Let us pray for our bishops, our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, our pastor Mark, our president Michael, our council, and our justice ministries, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God. [Silent prayer.]
- P Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church. Help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

- L Let us pray for those preparing for baptism. [Silent prayer.]
- P Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

L Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ. [Silent prayer.]

P Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

- L Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God. [Silent prayer.]
- P Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

- L Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. [Silent prayer.]
- P Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

- L Let us pray for those who do not believe in God. [Silent prayer.]
- P Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

- L Let us pray for God's creation. [Silent prayer.]
- P Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

- L Let us pray for those who serve in public office. [Silent prayer.]
- P Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

- L Let us pray for those in need. [Silent prayer.]
- P Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.

- L Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.
- A Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Procession of the Cross

The Assembly stands and sings as the cross is brought in. The cross is brought further forward, and is placed in the center of the worship space.



Solemn Reproaches

The Solemn Reproaches are the voice of the Crucified One speaking to us, calling on us to remember the mighty and gracious things God has done for us in spite of our failings. We respond by acknowledging God's holiness, and by asking for God's mercy. Each time the Presider says, "...but you have prepared a cross for your Savior," the Assembly responds.

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?... but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

A Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

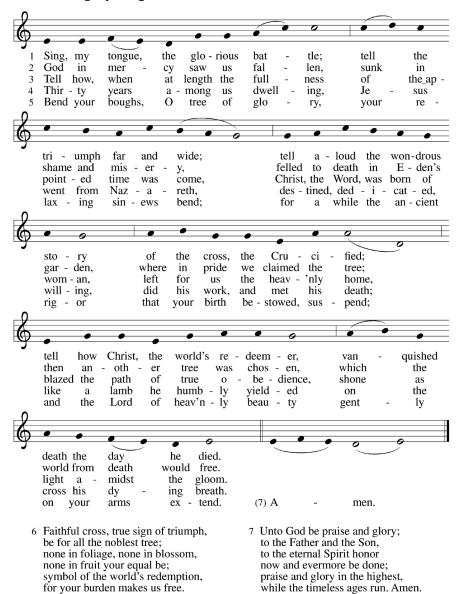
Veneration of the Cross.

During the choir or the Assembly singing, in the silence following, you are invited to come to the large cross to make a sign of reverence such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, or touching it.

"Christus Factus Est" by Felice Anerio

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis. Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen.

Christ became obedient for us unto death, even to the death, death on the cross. Therefore God exalted Him and gave Him a name which is above all names. Hymn



Departure

Before the Ministers depart. A loud sound is heard, signifying Christ's death and entombment. You may stay and contemplate the great mystery of the Cross as long as you wish. When you are ready, please depart in worshipful silence.

The Great Vigil of Pascha

March 30, 2024, 7:30 PM



About tonight's worship...

The Great Vigil of Pascha ("Passover") is a special night. We hear some of the greatest stories of our faith heritage unfurled in one setting, like telling our shared stories around a fire. In hearing these stories, we connect with the heart of our own faith story.

As the people of God, we have through history ached in suffering, celebrated in praise, begged for help, offered generous service, and in general led lives full to the brim. The stories of the Easter Vigil remind us of the range of faithful moments, including both joy and desolation. Witnessing these ancient stories, we discover anew how God's great story is for *us*. These stories are indeed *our* stories.

God brings us through fire and water, out of death and night, welcoming us into the light of life. This night we light the Paschal candle from a new fire. By the light of that flame we gather in a circle to hear and to remember who we are and where we have come from. We gather at the baptismal font, giving thanks for water that is a sign of death to sin and rebirth into eternal life and for the fire of the Spirit, animating ashes and dry bones. Tonight, as the church around the world welcomes new brothers and sisters in Christ through baptism, as we ourselves welcome two new brothers, and as we renew our baptismal vows, we remember how on the first Easter Christ welcomed Mary: calling her by name, bringing her out of weeping into the joyous light of Easter morning.

Through the drama of the Great Vigil, our communities of faith are invited to honest reflection and real renewal. On this night we remember that God's great story holds all of our little stories: the joy and fear of a new baby, changing jobs, cancer, celebrating friendship, waiting for new faith to emerge. All of us are written into God's ongoing and welcoming narrative of passionate grace and service.

Serving in worship this evening...

Presiding Minister	Pr. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister	
LectorsSusan Ross, Ki	t McCarthy, Diane Keely, Chris Djuric, Anne Heider, Michael Kloster,
Steve W	arner, Melanie Anderson, Laurie Stivers, Dana Barron, Elora Kloster
Acolyte	Chris Djuric
	James Morehead
Organist	Christine Kraemer
Table Preparation	Kit McCarthy
Zoom Host	Bert Mount
	Tom Couch, Kevin McDaniel
Ushers	Nicolai Schousboe

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Great Three Days and the pinnacle of the church's year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, as we gather around a pillar of fire, hear the ancient stories of our faith, renew the promises of our baptism at the font, and share the food and drink of the Promised Land as we gather around the Table. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the great good news of the Resurrection.

P: Presiding Minister L: Leader/Assisting Minister R: Reader A: Assembly + All may make the sign of the cross.

Welcome and Explanation

The Great Vigil begins after sunset after darkness has begun to descend, as a reminder of the darkness that is pierced by the blinding light of the resurrected Christ. The service begins outside.

The new fire represents God's creative energy that is sparked again and again in our world. The Paschal Candle recalls for us the pillar of fire that led the Children of Israel through the desert, and represents for us tonight the light of Christ, leading us to freedom.

Your unlighted candle represents the soul waiting to be kindled by the fire of God's Spirit.

Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- A Amen.
- P Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Prayer

- P Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.

Blessing of the Paschal Candle

The Presiding Minister traces the symbols on the Paschal Candle as he prays.

- P Christ yesterday and today, (+) the beginning, (Alpha–A) and the ending. (Omega–Ω)
 To Christ belongs all time and all the ages. (year)
 To Christ belongs all glory and dominion, now and forever.
- A Amen.

The Paschal Candle is lighted from the new fire.

P The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

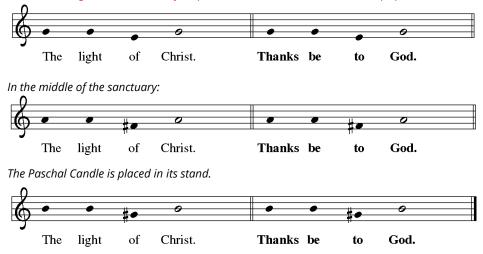
The Assisting Minister lifts the candle for all to see.

- P Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share this night in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.

Procession

The Assisting Minister leads the assembly to the entrance of the worship space and holds the paschal candle at the entrance of the sanctuary for the assembly to light their candles and bring the light into the darkened sanctuary. The Assisting Minister then bring the paschal candle into the sanctuary. The candle is held aloft three times along the way, to sing our thanks for Christ, our Light.

The Cantor sings and the Assembly responds. At the entrance to the worship space:

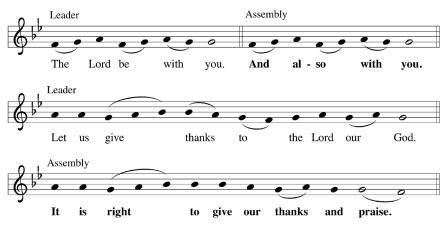


Easter Proclamation

The Cantor sings out an ancient hymn of praise called the Exsultet (Latin for "Rejoice!"). The song announces Christ's resurrection and calls on all creation to join in praise and thanksgiving. Please join in singing after the Cantor, as you are directed.

L Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen! Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation. Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever. Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy,

echoing the mighty song of all God's people.



 L It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin. For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain, by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.



L in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, and led them, dry-shod, through the sea. *[cont.]*



L in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.



L in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.

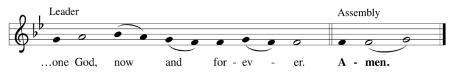


L in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph. O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell!



I of which it is written: "The night is as clear as the day," and, "then shall my night be turned into day."
 The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness; washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride.

And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection your whole church, giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,



Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray. Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- A Amen.

The Assembly is seated. Please extinguish your candles.

Vigil Readings

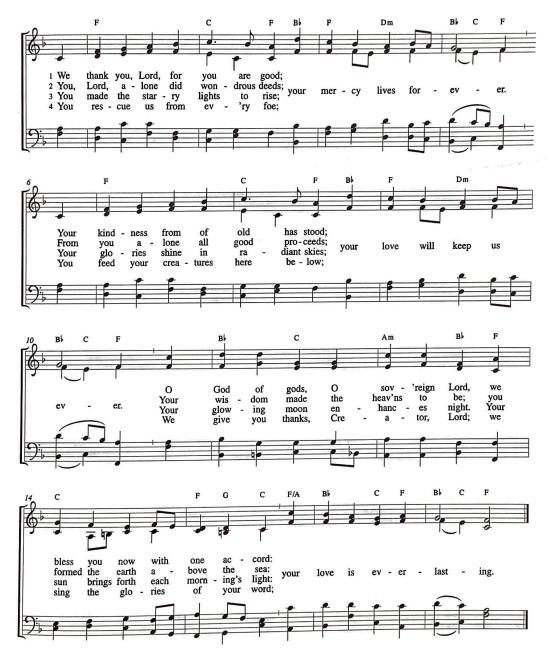
At this point in the Vigil, we hear our "family stories," the stories and songs of the Hebrew Scriptures that recount God's marvelous acts in creation and in delivering God's people over and over again from their captivity and exile, bringing life and salvation out of death and despair. As we listen, we hear how God has acted in the past, knowing that God is acting now in the resurrection of Jesus and in our own deliverance from all that binds us.

Invitation

P Sisters and brothers, let us now hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved God's people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

First Reading: Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:2a



A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

- P Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.

Second Reading: Deliverance at the Red Sea

Response (Choir only)

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Go Down Moses arr. by Anne Heider

When Israel was in Egypt's land, Let my people go. Oppressed so hard they could not stand. Let my people go. Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land, Tell old Pharoah to let my people go.

Thus saith the Lord, bold Moses said, Let my people go. If not I'll smite your first-born dead, Let my People go.

Your foes shall not before you stand. Let my people go And you'll possess fair Cannaan's land. Let my people go.

Through wilderness God led the way, let my people go. With fire by night and cloud by day, Let my people go.

A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

- P Let us pray. O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- A Amen.



Third Reading: Salvation Freely Offered to All

A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

- P Let us pray. Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- A Amen.

Isaiah 55:1-11

Fourth Reading: A New Heart and a New Spirit

Response (Choir only)

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum: ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus. *As the heart desireth the water brooks, So longeth my soul after thee, O God.*

A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

P Let us pray. God of holiness and mercy, in the dying and rising of Christ you have established a new covenant of reconciliation for us all. Cleanse our hearts and give us a new spirit, that by your saving grace we may live as your people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

Fifth Reading: The Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Response

"Dem Bones" Arr. By Adam Cuerdan

Ezekiel connected dem dry bones; Ezekiel connected dem dry bones; Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones; Now hear the word of the Lord.

The toe bone's connected to the foot bone; The foot bone's connected to the heel bone; The heel bone's connected to ankle bone; Now hear the word of the Lord.

Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around; Dem bones dem bones gonna hop around; Dem bones, dem bones gonna jump around; Now hear the word of the Lord.

Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones; Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones; Dem bones dem bones, dem dry bones;, Now hear the word of the Lord.

A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

- P Let us pray. Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of word and sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- A Amen.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

"Sicut Cervus" By G.P. da Palestrina

Sixth Reading: Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-29

Response

"All You Works of the Lord"

By Roger T. Petrich

The Choir sings the verses, the Assembly sings the refrain.



Praise Him and mag-ni-fy Him for - ev - er! er!

All you works of the Lord, [|] bless the Lord. **R**

You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord;

you heavens, | bless the Lord;

all you powers of the Lord, | bless the Lord. **R**

You sun and moon, [|] bless the Lord;

you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord;

you rain and dew, | bless the Lord. **R**

You winds of God, [|] bless the Lord; you fire and heat, [|] bless the Lord; you winter and summer, [|] bless the Lord. **R**

You dews and falling snow, ¹ bless the Lord; you frost and cold, ¹ bless the Lord;

you ice and snow, | bless the Lord. **R**

You nights and days, [|] bless the Lord; you light and darkness, [|] bless the Lord; you lightnings and clouds, [|] bless the Lord. **R**

Let the earth ¹ bless the Lord; you mountains and hills, ¹ bless the Lord; all you green things that grow on the earth, ¹ bless the Lord. **R** You wells and springs, ¹ bless the Lord; you seas and rivers, ¹ bless the Lord; you whales and all that swim in the waters, ¹ bless the Lord. **R** All you birds of the air, ¹ bless the Lord; all you wild animals and cattle, ¹ bless the Lord; all you children of mortals, ¹ bless the Lord. **R** You people of God, ¹ bless the Lord; you priests of the Lord, ¹ bless the Lord;

you servants of the Lord, | bless the Lord. **R**

You spirits and souls of the righteous, [|] bless the Lord; you holy and humble in heart, [|] bless the Lord; let us bless the Father and the Son and the [|] Holy Spirit. **R**

A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

- P Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- A Amen.

Reading from the New Testament

Romans 6:3-11

R A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But 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. 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.

- R Word of God, word of life.
- A Thanks be to God!

Announcement of the Resurrection

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- A Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As we sing "Alleluia, Jesus Is Risen," we ring bells and sing joyfully. Please remain standing, as you are able. The worship space is adorned with flowers and banners and parametrs as a sign of resurrection.



Gospel

John 20:1-18

P The holy gospel according to John.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and

the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- A Praise to you, O Christ!
- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- A Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

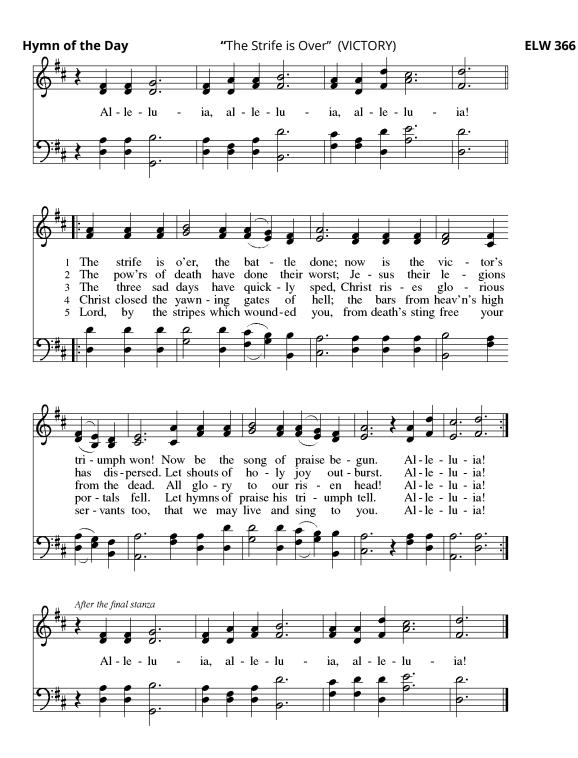
The Assembly is seated.

Sermon

Time of Silence

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection. During this time, you may want to meditate on what from the scriptures stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.

When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word with song.



Affirmation of Baptism: We renew our baptismal vows...

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of *our* baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Profession of Faith

As you profess your faith with the Apostle's Creed, the Ministers will sprinkle you with water in remembrance of baptism.

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
- P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- A I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- A I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- A I renounce them.
- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- A I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- A I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the + resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
- P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
 to live among God's faithful people,
 to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
 to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
 to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
 and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
- A I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.
- P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

A We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

A Amen.

Prayers of the People

L Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

[A brief silence]

God of the church, you lit the new fire of resurrection in the holy darkness of the tomb. Rekindle faith in our hearts, that your church may arise in the promise of new life and hope. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L God of creation, the earth itself waits for healing and redemption. Protect coastlines and reefs, forests and prairies, and the atmosphere from which we draw the breath of life. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L God of the nations, too often the injustice of the cross echoes in human systems of power. Break cycles of vengeance and violence between peoples and nations and bring liberation to every place of captivity. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L God of compassion, you know every heart that aches with loss and every mind that knows the weight of the tomb, especially. Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Joel Brown, Kathy Hermann, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Nancy Lang, Jim McCarthy, Elaine Nelson, Darryl Rohrer, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Comfort the grieving and strengthen all who are close to death. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L God of grace, grant joy to those celebrating baptism and to all who welcome them into the community of faith. Inspire and lead people of all ages to share the good news in ways that reach new people. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

L God of resurrection, the empty tomb proclaims that death itself is swallowed up. As we remember those whose lives on earth have ended, comfort us with the promise of resurrection. Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

- L Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.
- A Amen.

Peace

- P The peace of the Risen One be with you always.
- A And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of the Risen Christ, saying "Peace be with you," "The peace of the Lord," or similar words.

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ ...

Offering An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need. You scan this code with your smartphone camera to make your financial offering online.



Offering Music

"Christ Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!" By Tom Mitchell

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Shout Alleluia! Dance Alleluia! Sing Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Show Alleluia! Live Alleluia! Christ is our own Resurrection!

Shout the news of Easter trumps! Dance with the reborn Christ in you; Show Alleluia! Live Alleluia! Sing of victory: then and now the Body of Christ has lift anew. Show your faith by giving God all pain, all death, all dour, all fear. Live in joy for Christ is risen! Christ is here! **Presentation of the Gifts**

"In Thee Is Gladness" (IN DIR EST FREUDE)

ELW 867

The Assembly stands and sings.



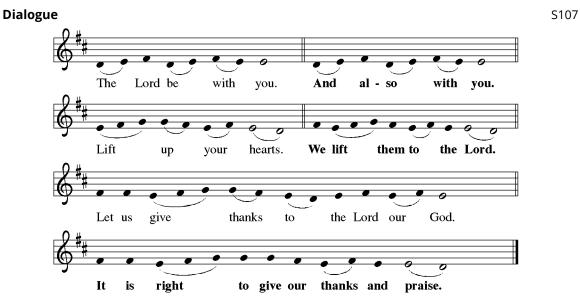
Offering Prayer

L Let us pray. [pause]

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

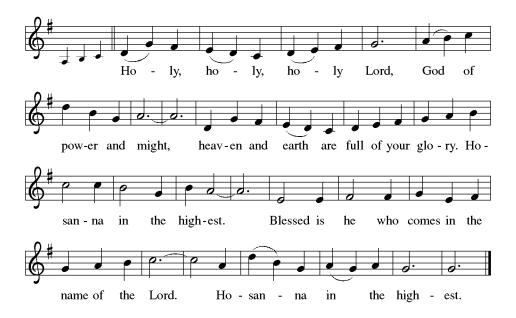
A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



Preface

 P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Thanksgiving at the Table

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

> The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

A We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

A We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

A We thank you, O God.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Α

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.



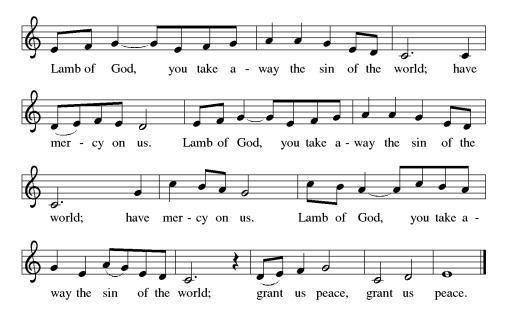
The Lord's Prayer

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

- P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.Come and eat at God's table.
- A 🚊 We come to be filled with your new life. Alleluia.

The Assembly is seated.



Distribution of Holy Communion

For those who are communing with the packets or online, the pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you".

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements.

P This is the body of Christ, given for you.

All communing remotely or with individual packets may partake of the bread

P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you. All communing remotely or with individual packets may drink of their cup.

The Assembly stands as directed.



Blessing after Communion

- P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.
- A Amen.

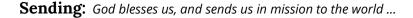
Prayer after Communion

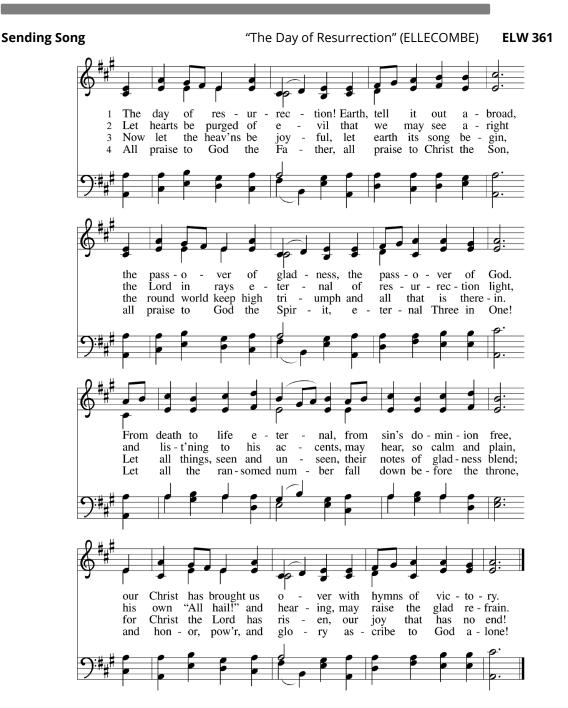
L Let us pray... Shepherding God,
 you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.
 Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

A Amen.

Blessing

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
 Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
 The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope
 + bless you now and always.
- A Amen.





Dismissal

- L Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
- A Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

"Carillon-Sortie" by Henri Mulet

Please stay for a time of feasting in the Fellowship Hall as we break the Lenten fast! And please come back tomorrow morning at 10:30 AM for our Festival Eucharist with special music!

Welcome!

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge. We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

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Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Mark Sloss	Pastor
Michael Kloster	Congregation Council President
James Morehead	Music Director
Greg Hummel	Organist Emeritus
Christine Kraemer	Principal Organist
Laurie Stivers	
Jane Kaihatsu	-

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Metropolitan Chicago Synod. We've been worshiping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!