



**MORRISON  
ZION  
LUTHERAN**  
Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to  
**Glorify God**  
as we  
**Gather**  
around the Gospel  
to help people  
**Grow**  
in the **Gospel**  
and  
**Go**  
with the **Gospel**

**Welcome!** We thank  
God that you have  
joined us at worship  
today.

Restrooms are  
located in the  
basement. Hearing  
loop headphones and  
Large Print Hymnals  
are available from an  
usher.

If your children need  
to leave worship,  
please take them to  
the basement. A TV  
broadcasts the service  
in the basement.

Today we gather  
together in the  
presence of God. He is  
present among us in a  
special way through  
his Word and  
Sacrament. We  
acknowledge our sin  
and rejoice in the good  
news of forgiveness  
through the life and  
death of Christ. This is  
the focus of our  
worship.

April 19, 2025  
**Easter Vigil**



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**The Triduum** (TRID-oo-um, “three days”) refers to the time from worship on Maundy Thursday until the final worship of Easter Day. The “Three Holy Days” of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire church year. It is over these days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter – that we celebrate God’s redeeming love in the dying and rising of his Son, Jesus, and still see that love today. The Triduum is a single celebration. Once we have begun the Triduum on Maundy Thursday, we do not “leave” it until Easter Sunday. It is one continuous celebration of dying and rising, with Christ.

**Easter Vigil** In the early church the Easter Vigil was when the catechumens were baptized and received their first Communion. Baptism remains a central focus in the Vigil today. Even when there are no baptisms the congregation takes the time to remember their own baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection. The service traditionally was held late at night so that the pastor’s statement, “Alleluia! Christ is Risen” and the people’s response would be at midnight.

**Service of Light** The congregation gathers in entry. Those who do not wish to process into the church may be seated. Those processing are given candles to be lit later from the paschal candle. The paschal candle is a sign of the presence of the risen Christ among us.

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*Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.*

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## SERVICE OF LIGHT

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

**C: Amen.**

M: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

M: O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people with the fire of your love. Bless, we ask you, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival. Burning with desire for life with you, may we be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The candle bearer presents the paschal candle.*

M: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. His are time and eternity; his are the glory and dominion now and forever. By his wounds we are healed now and forever.

*As the paschal candle is lit from the final candle of the Tenebrae service, the minister says:*

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

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

**C: Amen.**

All light their candles from the paschal candle. Then, the paschal candle held by the candlebearer, all follow in procession into the dark church.

As the procession begins, the candle bearer holds the paschal candle aloft, pauses and says:

M: The light of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Halfway to the altar, the candle bearer pauses and says the second time:

M: The light of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

When the candle bearer arrives before the altar, he faces the congregation, lifts the candle, and says the third time:

M: The light of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The candle bearer places the paschal candle in its stand in the center of the chancel. Standing in its light the minister or an assistant sings or says:

# Exsultet

(Kathy Dahlke) solo

1 Ex - ult, O an - gel ar - mies, You  
 2 Ex - ult, O earth, in glad - ness, All  
 3 Ex - ult, O Church, in glo - ry. O

war - ri - ors of light. Sound forth the gold - en  
 flood - ed now with light, A - blaze with warmth and  
 Bride, now see your Groom Like light - ning in the

trum - pet To end the dark - est night. Pro -  
 glo - ry That puts the gloom to flight. Be  
 heav - ens Has left be - hind his tomb. Be -

claim with fear - less voic - es The tri - umph of our  
 sure, O earth - ly crea - tures; All mor - tals, learn this  
 hold, he now has clothed you In daz - zling splen - dor

King. Re - joice, O host of heav - en; A  
 well: The King of all the ag - es Has  
 bright; Ex - changed your rags of mourn - ing For

new song to him sing: "The Lamb, once slain, is  
 smashed the gates of hell. From dust he has a -  
 roy - al robes of white. So thun - der now, God's

liv - ing! To him be strength and praise! The  
 ris - en; In flesh im - mor - tal stands, With  
 peo - ple, And shake the walls with song. Your

Li - on of sal - va - tion Shall reign for end - less days!"  
 light and life and glo - ry For all the tribes and lands.  
 King has con - quer'd dark - ness, And right - ed ev' - ry wrong.

Text: Benjamin Radtke Tune: THAXTED

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places, with all our hearts and minds and voices, praise you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, and your one and only Son, Jesus Christ.

**C: For he is the true Paschal Lamb, who offered himself for the sin of the world, who cleansed us by the shedding of his precious blood.**

M: 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.

**C: This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality.**

M: 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 the night.

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

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

**C: How holy is this day when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast.**

M: How blessed is this night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true Light and Morning Star, shine in our hearts, he who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated*

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## SERVICE OF LESSONS

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

M: On this most holy night, our Savior Christ the Lord broke the power of death and by his resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for he truly keeps his word. The sun of righteousness has dawned on those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

## Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:3

## Psalm

*We Thank You, Lord, for you are Good* Psalm 136c CW

2 You, Lord, a - lone did won - drous deeds; your  
3 You made the star - ry lights to rise; your

mer - cy lives for - ev - er. From you a - lone all  
mer - cy lives for - ev - er. Your glo - ries shine in

good pro - ceeds; your love will keep us ev - er.  
ra - diant skies; your love will keep us ev - er.

Your wis - dom made the heav'ns to be; you formed the  
Your glow - ing moon en - hanc - es night; your sun brings

earth a - bove the sea: your love is ev - er - last - ing.  
forth each morn - ing's light: your love is ev - er - last - ing.

M: Almighty God, you most wonderfully created human nature and yet more wonderfully redeemed it. By your mercy renew us in the image of him who came to share our humanity, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

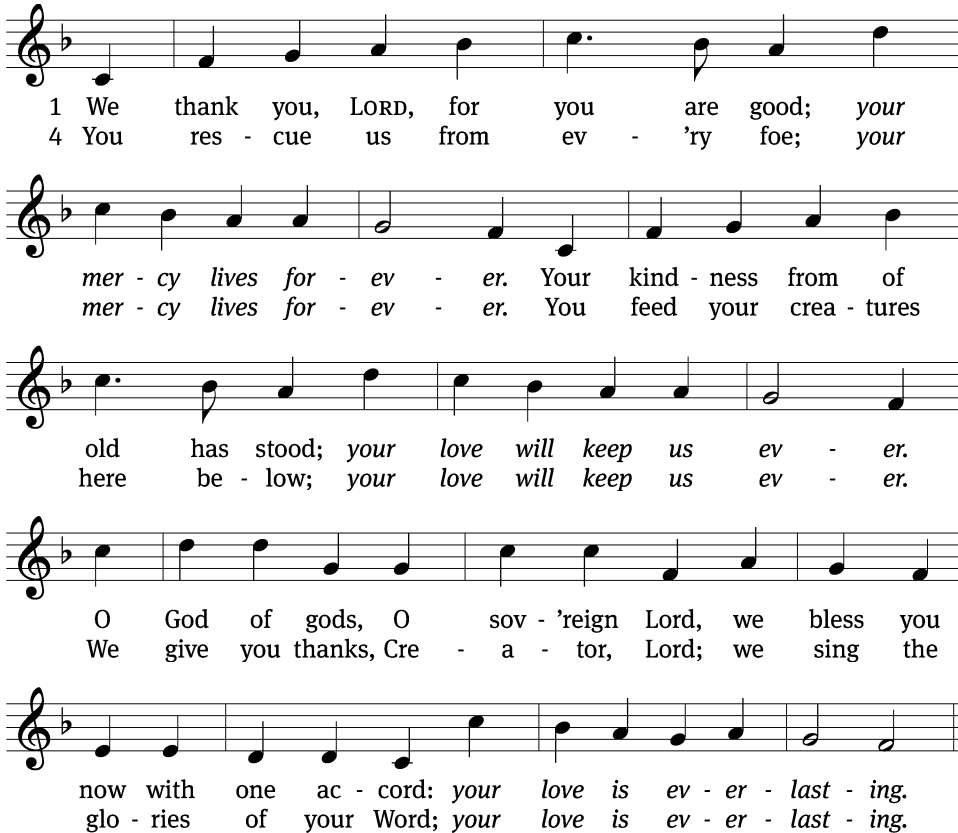
C: Amen.

## The Flood

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

## Psalm

*We Thank You, Lord, for you are Good* **Psalm 136c CW**



1 We thank you, LORD, for you are good; your  
4 You res - cue us from ev - 'ry foe; your

mer - cy lives for - ev - er. Your kind - ness from of  
mer - cy lives for - ev - er. You feed your crea - tures

old has stood; your love will keep us ev - er.  
here be - low; your love will keep us ev - er.

O God of gods, O sov - 'reign Lord, we bless you  
We give you thanks, Cre - a - tor, Lord; we sing the

now with one ac - cord: your love is ev - er - last - ing.  
glo - ries of your Word; your love is ev - er - last - ing.

Text: John G. Dunn

Tune: Severus Gastorius

Text: © 1985 John G. Dunn. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

Tune: Public domain

M: O Lord, whose wrath burned against the evil of humanity, you brought the flood on a wicked and perverse generation and yet saved faithful Noah and his family. Gather your people into your Church, and so complete your work of mercy, that the ends of the earth may know your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea**

**Exodus 14:10-15:1**

## Hymn

*Son of God, Eternal Savior* CW 729:1-2



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and  
2 Bind us all as one to - geth - er in your Church's



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us,  
sa - cred fold, weak and health - y, poor and wealth - y,



hal - lows all our hu - man race, you our head, who, throned in  
sad and joy - ful, young and old. Is there want or pain or



glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead: fill us with your  
sor - row? Make us all the bur - den share. Are there spir - its



love and pit - y, heal our wrongs and help our need.  
crushed and bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, abr., alt.  
Tune: The Revivalist, Troy, 1868, ed. Joseph Hillman  
Text and tune: Public domain

**M:** O God, you once delivered your people Israel from slavery under Pharaoh and led them safely through the Red Sea. By this you gave us a picture of Baptism. Lead us always to rejoice in your baptismal promise, that we may live in its grace and declare to all people your desire to save them and bring them to a knowledge of your truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

**The Fiery Furnace**

**Daniel 3:1–29**

## Hymn

*Son of God, Eternal Savior* CW 729:3-4



3 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and



oth - ers live. Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed;  
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



free - ly may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and yours the  
hal - lows all our hu - man race, by your pray - ing, by your



sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stew - ards  
will - ing that your peo - ple should be one, grant, O grant our



of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, abr., alt.  
Tune: The Revivalist, Troy, 1868, ed. Joseph Hillman  
Text and tune: Public domain

**M:** O God, your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Protect us in our time of testing that we 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.

**C: Amen.**

## Stand

The Paschal Candle may be moved to the baptismal font.



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## SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

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M: On this holiest of days, the whole church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls his death and burial, rejoicing in the gospel of his glorious resurrection from the dead. Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul says,

“Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God, In the same way count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus”



## Hymn

## *All Who Believe and Are Baptized* CW 692



1 All who be-lieve and are bap-tized shall see the Lord's sal -  
2 With one ac-cord, O God, we pray: grant us your Ho - ly



va - tion; bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, they are a  
Spir - it; help us in our in - firm - i - ty through Je - sus'



new cre - a - tion; through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand a -  
blood and mer - it; grant us to grow in grace each day that



mong the glo-rious, heav'n-ly band of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
by this sac - ra - ment we may e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.  
Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, Wittenberg, 1524  
Text and tune: Public domain

If there are candidates for Holy Baptism, they gather at the font. After the baptisms, the Vigil continues with the Service of Holy Communion.

If there are no candidates for Holy Baptism, the congregation joins in the following renunciation and profession of faith as a remembrance of their baptisms.

### *Stand*

**M:** In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives us new life in Christ our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

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

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

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

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

**C: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

M: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

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

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

The paschal candle is returned to its stand.

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## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

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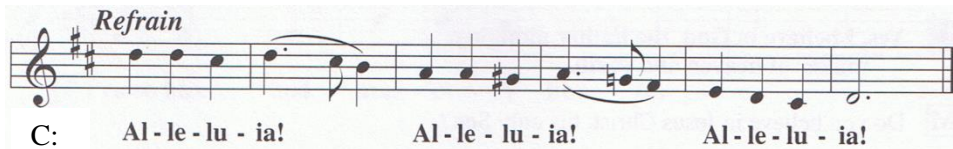
The altar candles are lit from the paschal candle. The lights of the church are fully lit, the bells may be rung, and the minister proclaims:

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



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



## Gospel

**Matthew 28:1-10**

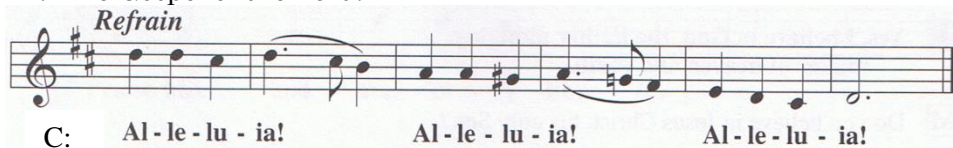
After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

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

M: The Gospel of the Lord.



## Prayer of the Day

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

C: Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and**

**lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

M: On this most holy night, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ joyfully celebrates his resurrection from the dead. Our Lord has won our forgiveness, life, and salvation by his death and resurrection. He now comes to us in the Sacrament of the Altar to personally bless us with these gifts. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

### **Words of Institution**

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

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

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

**C: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

### **Distribution**

## Distribution Hymn

*At the Lamb's High Feast we Sing CW 675*



- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
2 Praise we him whose love di - vine gives his  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
thro' the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.  
You have conquered in the fight,  
you have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
newborn souls in you to be.  
Alleluia!

- 6 Now no more can death appall,  
now no more the grave enthrall;  
you have opened paradise,  
and your saints in you shall rise.  
Alleluia!

- 8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days,  
Three in One, your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 4th–10th cent., alt. 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.  
Tune: Kirchengeseng, Ivancice, 1566  
Text and tune: Public domain

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## THANKSGIVING

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M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
C: **his mercy endures forever.**

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

M: We thank you, Lord, that you have nourished us with your Easter sacraments. Fill us with your Spirit, the Spirit of your love, that those whom you have satisfied with one heavenly bread may be united in one holy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The Vigil service traditionally does not include a benediction.

### Closing Hymn

*The Day of Resurrection* CW 450



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil that we may see a - right  
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.  
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light  
let all the world keep tri - umph and all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,  
and, lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
his own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879  
Text and tune: Public domain

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**Offerings** may be placed in the baskets in the back of church as you leave.

**The Three Holy Days** continues on Sunday. Festival worship will be at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Communion will be a part of worship at both services.

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