

March 2026  
L. Reinhardt, A. Saroop



**Vigil of Easter**  
Spirit of Life Lutheran Church  
April 4, 2026  
8:00 pm

*We gather around the fire on the front patio at 8pm*

**Greeting**

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

*Welcome to the Vigil*

*Territorial Acknowledgment*

*Play "Your Forgiveness" by Paul Simon on a Bluetooth speaker*

Take some time to watch the fire blaze; recall fire stories from the Bible - God's appearance to Moses in the burning bush, the fire on Mt Sinai, God's pillar of fire leading the people to the promised land; the fire of Pentecost, the fire on the beach with Jesus cooking breakfast.

LEADER: Siblings 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 and oil, 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.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ

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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.  
**Amen.**

*Presider traces inscription on Paschal candle, then lights a taper or long match from the bonfire to light the Paschal candle*

Christ, yesterday and today,	+
the beginning	<i>capital Alpha</i>
and the ending	<i>capital Omega</i>
To Christ belongs all time	2
and all the age	0
to Christ belongs glory and dominion	<i>decade</i>
now and forever.	<i>year</i>

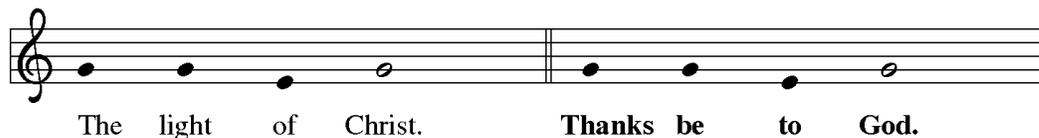
**Amen.**

### Procession

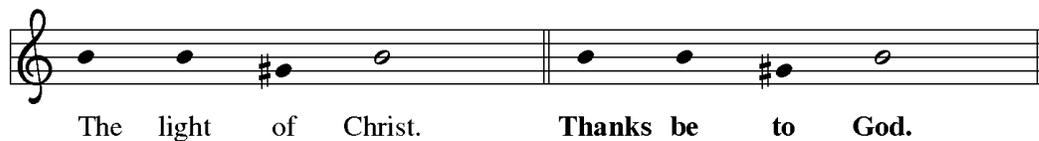
*The presiding minister lights the paschal candle, using a stick or taper from the fire, and sings or says:*

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

*Lit Paschal candle leads people into the church winding the way from narthex to Manor foyer to Manor Lounge, to narthex, to sanctuar— sung responses between cantor and congregation repated...*



*Paschal candle is set in stand— everyone lights their candles (or they have been lit as the procession winds its way into the church)*



## Evangelical Lutheran Worship *Easter Proclamation*

Leader



Re - joice, now, all heav'n - ly pow'rs! Sing, choirs of an - gels!



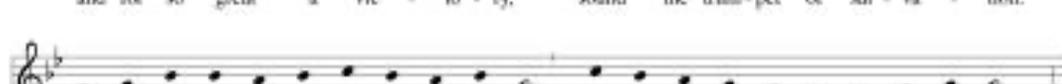
Ex - ult, all creation around God's throne! Je - sus Christ is ri - sen!



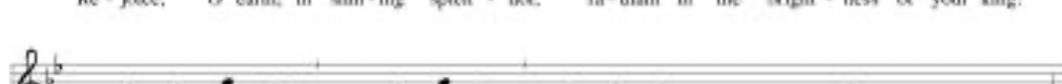
Celebrate the divine mysteries with ex - ul - ta - tion;



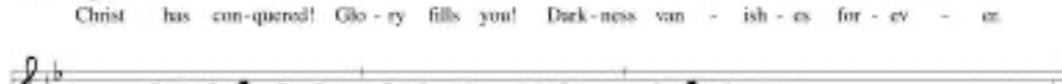
and for so great a vic - to - ry, sound the trum - pet of sal - va - tion.



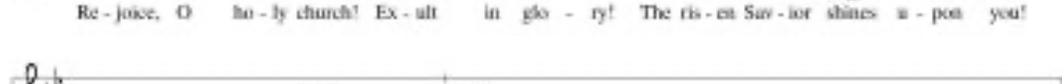
Re - joice, O earth, in shin - ing splen - dor, ra - diant in the bright - ness of your king!



Christ has con - quered! Glo - ry fills you! Dark - ness van - ish - es for - ev - er.

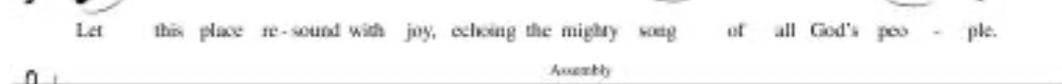


Re - joice, O ho - ly church! Ex - ult in glo - ry! The ris - en Sav - ior shines u - pon you!



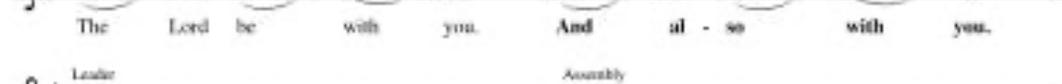
Let this place re - sound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's peo - ple.

Assembly



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Leader



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Assembly

Easter Proclamation, p. 2

Leader



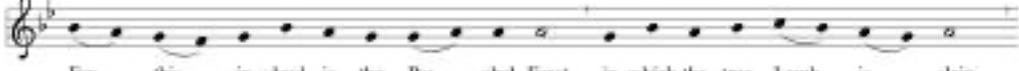
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy, that with full devotion of heart and mind



and voice we should praise the invis-i - ble God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;



who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bond - age to the an - cient sin.



For this in - deed is the Pas - chal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain,

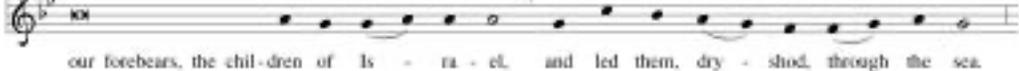


by whose blood the doorposts of the faith - ful are made ho - ly.

[opt. Assembly] Leader



This is the night [This is the night] in which, in ancient times, you delivered

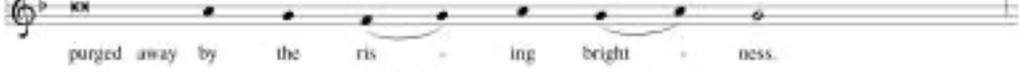


our forebears, the chil - dren of Is - ra - el, and led them, dry - shod, through the sea.

[opt. Assembly] Leader

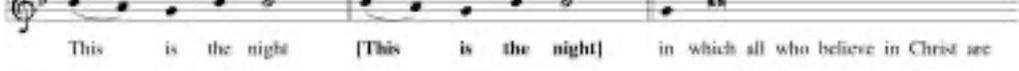


This is the night [This is the night] in which the darkness of sin has been

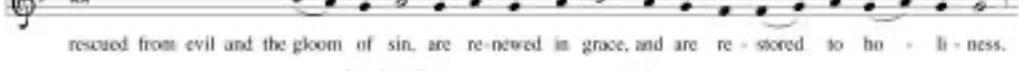


purged away by the ris - ing bright - ness.

[opt. Assembly] Leader

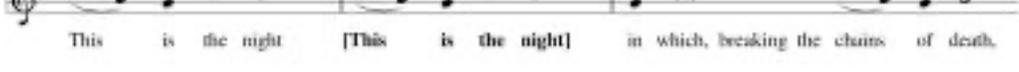


This is the night [This is the night] in which all who believe in Christ are



rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are re - newed in grace, and are re - stored to ho - li - ness.

[opt. Assembly] Leader



This is the night [This is the night] in which, breaking the chains of death,

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Christ arises from hell in tri - umph. O night tru - ly blessed  
which a - lone was worthy to know the time and the hour in which Christ a - rose a - gain from hell!

[opt. Assembly] Leader  
This is the night [This is the night] of which it is written: "The night is as clear as the day,"  
and, "then shall my night be turned in - to day." The holiness of this night  
puts to flight the deeds of wick - ed - ness; wash - es a - way sin,  
re - stores innocence to the fall - en, and joy to those who mourn;  
casts out hate; brings peace; and hum - bles earth - ly pride.

There - fore, in this night of grace, receive, O God, our praise and thanks - giv - ing  
for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Je - sus Christ, re - flected in the  
burn - ing of this can - dle. We sing the glories of this pil - lar of fire,  
the brightness of which is not di - min - ished e - ven when its light is di - vid - ed and bee - rowed,  
For it is fed by the melt - ing wax which the bees, your ser - vants, have made for the

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sub - stance of this can - dle. This is the night [This is the night]

Leader

in which heaven and earth are joined—things hu - man and things di - vine.

We, there - fore, pray to you, O God, that this can - dle, burn - ing to the hon - or

of your name, will con - tinue to vanquish the dark - ness of night

and be min - gled with the lights of heav - en. May Christ the Morn - ing Star

find it burn - ing, that Morn - ing Star who nev - er sets,

that Morn - ing Star who, rising from the grave, faithfully sheds light on the whole hu - man race.

And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection

your whole church, giving us peace in this time of our pas - chal re - joic - ing;

through the same Lord Je - sus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the

Ho - ly Spir - it, one God, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

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*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated. Hand-held candles may be extinguished.*

## WORD

### **Vigil Readings, Song, Silence, Prayer**

*Each reading is part of a unit. A unit comprises Scripture, a psalm or hymn, at least a full minute of silence, a prayer.*

1st Reading - Genesis 1:1-2:4a – Creation

### **Chapter 1**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

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<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." <sup>29</sup>God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

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And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

## **Chapter 2**

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Response - ACS 1064 *Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom*

## Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,  
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.  
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.  
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.  
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice  
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake  
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.  
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.  
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

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SILENCE *for one full minute*

Prayer

Almighty God,  
you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature

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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, your Son, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*Fourth Reading: Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21**

### *Deliverance at the Red Sea*

#### **Chapter 14**

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." <sup>13</sup>But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. <sup>16</sup>But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. <sup>18</sup>And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea

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back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

## Chapter 15

<sup>20</sup>Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. <sup>21</sup>And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Response - Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 (from red and grey bk) Lorraine to lead

SILENCE *for one full minute*

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old  
shine forth even to our own day:  
By the power of your mighty arm

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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.

**Amen.**

**\*Fifth Reading: Isaiah 55:1–11**

*Salvation freely offered to all*

Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

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nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.\

Response - ACS 926 Surely God is My Salvation

## Surely God Is My Salvation



1 Sure - ly God is my sal - va - tion,  
2 Thus with joy you shall draw wa - ter  
3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry,



I will trust and shall not fear. God the Lord is  
from sal - va - tion's wells and springs. Sing your thanks to  
make this known in all the earth. Praise the Lord, the



strong and might - y, my sal - va - tion true.  
God Al - might - y for these won - drous deeds.  
God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.



*Refrain*  
Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

Text: Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979, based on Isaiah 12:2-6  
Music: YISREAL V'ORAITA, Hasidic melody  
Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

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SILENCE *for one full minute*

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.  
**Amen.**

**\*Twelfth Reading: Daniel 3:1–29**

*Deliverance from the fiery furnace*

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. <sup>3</sup>So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, <sup>4</sup>the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, <sup>5</sup>that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire." <sup>7</sup>Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup>They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! <sup>10</sup>You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, <sup>11</sup>and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. <sup>12</sup>There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

<sup>13</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and

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Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. <sup>14</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? <sup>15</sup>Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

<sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. <sup>18</sup>But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

<sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, <sup>20</sup>and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>21</sup>So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>22</sup>Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>23</sup>But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

<sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." <sup>25</sup>He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." <sup>26</sup>Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. <sup>27</sup>And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. <sup>28</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup>Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

Response - ACS 1095 How Shall I Sing That Majesty

## How Shall I Sing that Majesty



1 How shall I sing that maj - es - ty which an - gels do ad -  
2 En - light - en with faith's light my heart, in - flame it with love's  
3 How great a be - ing, Lord, is thine, which doth all be - ings



mire? Let dust in dust and si - lence lie; sing, sing, ye  
fire, then shall I sing and take my part with that ce -  
keep! Thy knowl - edge is the on - ly line to sound so



heav'n - ly choir. Thou - sands of thou - sands stand a -  
les - tial choir. They sing, be - cause thou art their  
vast a deep; thou art a sea with - out a



round thy throne, O God most high; ten thou - sand  
sun; Lord, send a beam on me; for where heav'n  
shore, a sun with - out a sphere; thy time is



times ten thou - sand sound thy praise; but who am I?  
is but once be - gun, there al - le - lu - ias be.  
now and ev - er - more, thy place is ev - 'ry - where.

Text: John Mason, 1646–1694  
Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931–1991  
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SILENCE *for one full minute*

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.  
**Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*lights on, altar candles lit, bells rung, alleluia verse (Lorraine will lead)*

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John's Gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.*

Early 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. <sup>2</sup>So 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." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and 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. <sup>13</sup>They said to her,

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"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." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom 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." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus 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.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Reflection**

## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

ACS 955 *Come to the Water of Life*

## Come to the Water of Life

1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for  
2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for  
3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for  
4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for

love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,  
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,  
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,  
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,

come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943  
Music: WATER OF LIFE, Ray Makeever  
Text and music © 1999 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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### Thanksgiving at the font

*All to dip their hand and make the sign of the cross on their forehead*

Dip your hand in Heaven's waters

God's Imagination.

Dip your hands in Heaven's waters

All of life's abundance in a

Drop of condensation.

Dip your hand in Heaven's water.

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Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Peace**

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The peace of Christ be with you always

**And also with you**

We share a sign of that peace with one another

## MEAL

The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

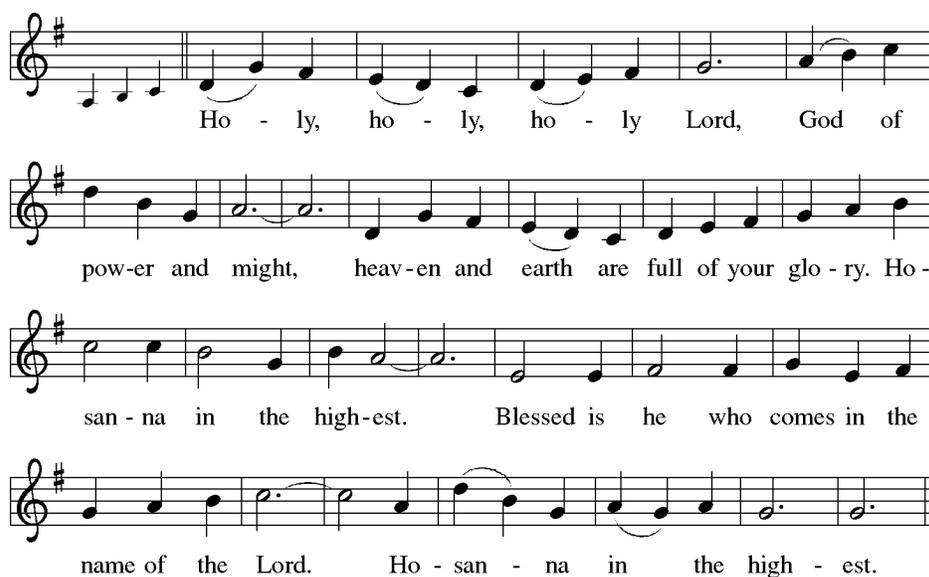
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The music is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.  
Ful - filling the promise of the res - ur - rec - tion,  
you pour out the fire of your Spir - it, uniting in one body people of ev'ry  
na - tion and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Pe - ter  
and all the witnesses of the res - ur - rec - tion  
with earth and sea and all their crea - tures,  
and with angels and archangels, cheru - bim and ser - a - phim,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
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;

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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.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

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.

**Amen.**

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.

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**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

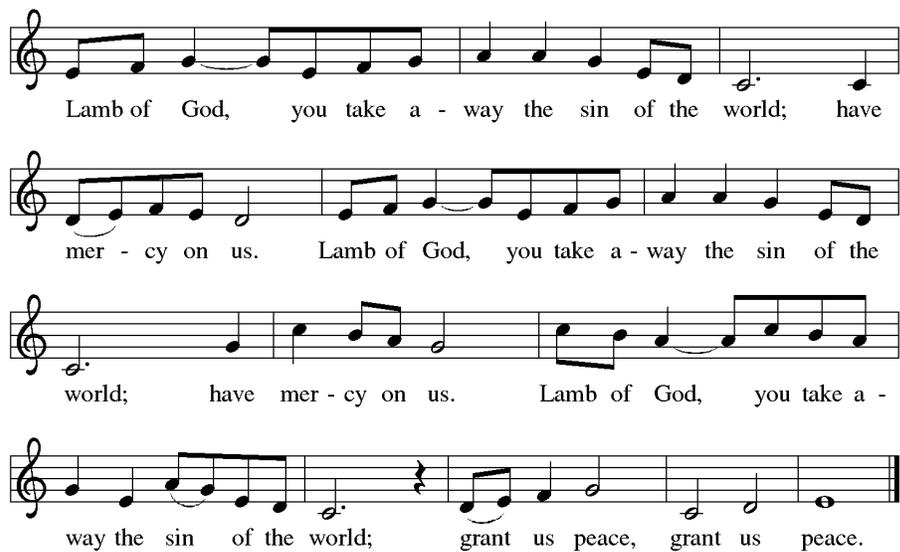
**Lords Prayer**

**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.**

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Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn ASC 1032 *Lift Up Your Heads*

## Lift Up Your Heads



1 Lift up your heads, all you bowed low,  
2 Lift up your hands, your voices raise,  
3 Lift up your hearts, your great A - men;  
4 Be - hold, the Spir - it here a - bides,



hear the liv - ing wa - ter flow: quench - ing  
bold in plead - ing, bright with praise. Weep no  
Mer - cy feeds her guests a - gain: bread e -  
bear - ing God's a - bun - dant life: peace be -



spring and cleans - ing pool, heal - ing riv - er, clear and  
more, your God has come; greet the wound - ed, ris - en  
nough to break and share, fes - tive wine that scents the  
tween you, love with - in, grace be - side you loos - 'ning



cool. How fresh it falls up -  
One, who bless - es you with  
air, Oh, taste and see what  
sin. Be - lov - ed, Christ a -



on your face, stream - ing from the font of grace.  
joy com - plete, dwell - ing in the Word of peace.  
once was lost ris - ing in this feast of love.  
mong you stands, mov - ing through your hearts and hands.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: WEST LEESTAD, Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979

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Prayer after communion

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

Benediction

Sending Hymn ACS 950 *Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In*

## Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In



1 Oh, when the saints go march - ing in, oh, when the  
2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the  
3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the  
4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they  
5 And on that hal - le - lu - jah day, and on that



saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that  
Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that  
new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that  
gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that  
hal - le - lu - jah day, O Lord, I want to be in that



num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.  
num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.  
num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.  
num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.  
num - ber on that hal - le - lu - jah day.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news!  
**Thanks be to God**