

Easter Vigil
Service of Holy Communion
April 4, 2026
4:30 pm
Grace Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, PA

**-the congregation is invited to stand*

WELCOME TO GRACE

A warm welcome to all who are celebrating this Easter Vigil worship service with us. If you are visiting with us, please fill out a guest card which are found in the pews. Following the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor.

We hope that this bulletin will help guide you through our worship service.

INTRODUCTION

Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter. Indeed, tonight is the pinnacle of the church’s year. Forgotten by most Christians for about 1400 years, the Easter Vigil is being restored to its place as a central worship service of the year. Tonight’s service is an abbreviated form of the Vigil of Easter. You may wish to light a candle near to the space where you are worshipping, and gather bells to ring at the appropriate moment in the service.

We will be starting in the Library through Affirmation of Baptism, and will then transition into the Chapel for the NT, Gospel, Sermon and Communion part of the service.

God gathers us in unity.

GATHERING

***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.

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; tonight we proclaim Christ’s death and resurrection, share Christ’s triumph over sin and death, and await Christ’s coming again in glory.

***LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE**

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

Let us pray:

O God, You are like a refiners fire, and Your Spirit kindles the hearts of Your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter Festival, that burning with desire for life with You, they may be found ready to take part in that festival of light which has no end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

[Tracing on the candle the vertical and horizontal arms of the cross, the Alpha and Omega, also the numerals of the year.]

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and ending; Alpha and Omega; His are time and eternity; His are glory and dominion forever.

Amen.

[The five nails, placed in the candle, recall the wounds of Jesus.]

Through His Holy and glorious wounds, may Christ the Lord protect us and preserve us.

Amen.

May the darkness of our hearts and minds be dispelled by the light of Christ who rises this night in glory.

Amen.

O God, bless this lighted candle and those upon whom it shines that all who this night take part in Your Mysteries may be filled with Your blessing; that as we were once in darkness but are now in the light of the Lord, we may walk as children of light, through the same Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness; look in mercy upon Your Church, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of Chaos. Let the whole world experience and see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through Jesus Christ our Lord, from whom they first took being.

Amen.

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

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

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.

Amen.

THIRD READING: Daniel 3: 1-29

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

O God, by the Passover of the Son You have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Give us such an understanding of Your mercy that, in receiving the gifts of Word and Sacrament now, we may learn to hope for all Your gifts to come; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRESENTATION

Dear Friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ
Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The assembly stands.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

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?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

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

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.

Amen.

(We enter into the Chapel following the Paschal candle, symbolizing the transition from the old covenant to the new covenant, but one God leading the way.)

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 6:3-11 *Baptism in Christ*

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore 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.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We 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.

⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you

also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

As the lights in the church are turned up, the altar candles are lighted, and bells are rung.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

ELW #365
Vs. 1 and 4

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

The holy gospel according to St. John.

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? 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.” 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

***THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

A greeting of peace is shared among the assembly.

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING

We respond to the grace given us by sharing our gifts with others through the offering. Today's regular offering supports the ongoing ministry of Grace church. You can give online, by cash, or by check.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Ave Verum Corpus K618

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Emily Hartman - organ

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

MEAL

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

*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.*

***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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly may be seated.

Those communing at in their seats are invited to prepare their elements then to be led through eating and drinking the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine.

Please come forward to receive the body and blood of Christ in the bread and the wine.

The Lutheran Church welcomes all to the Lord's Supper. If you are not a Christian and wish to inquire about the Christian faith, we invite you to speak to the minister.

***BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of the Risen Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

***BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Thine Is the Glory

ELW #376

Vs. 1 & 2

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thine Is the Glory

Judas Maccabaeus

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister The Rev. Chad Butz

Assisting Minister..... Krista Snavely

Lector & Musician Emily Hartman

Join us for the festival celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord tomorrow morning, in person or via Live Stream at 9:30 am.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

vs 1 & 4

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Thine Is the Glory

vs 1 & 2

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain
where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Our Story

Matthew 25:35-40: *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”*

The purpose of Grace Lutheran Church is to make a difference by serving others through God’s love and our faith

Grace Church Staff

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To contact the church office: 717.737.0439; office@gracecamphill.org
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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