



# *Easter Vigil*



**MARCH 30, 2024  
7:00 PM**

# EASTER VIGIL LITURGY

Saturday, March 30, 2024

7:00 PM

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

### \*INVOCATION AND PASCHAL LITANY

*(Begin in Narthex - people face the entrance to the sanctuary.)*

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word, we share in His victory over death.

Leader: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

People: **The beginning and the end.**

Leader: He is the Alpha and the Omega.

People: **Time and eternity are His, as are the glory and dominion, both now and forever.**

Leader: By His wounds we have healing now and forever.

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

Leader: Let us pray.

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

People: **Amen.**

*(Christ Candle is carried into the sanctuary.)*

Leader: The Light of Christ!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*(The procession proceeds down the aisle.)*

Leader: The Light of Christ!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*(The Christ Candle arrives at the front.)*

Leader: The Light of Christ!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

### **\*SALUTATION AND PROPER PREFACE**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood.

People: **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.**

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

People: **This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead.**

Leader: The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son.

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

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

**People:**    **How blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise.**

**Leader:**    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.

**People:**    **Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## **SERVICE OF READINGS & THE WORD**

**Leader:**    In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His Word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

### **THE CREATION**

*Genesis 1:1-2:2(CSB)*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>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." There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day. <sup>6</sup>Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water." <sup>7</sup>So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the expanse "sky." Evening came and then morning: the second day. <sup>9</sup>Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering of the water he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth produced vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit

with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>Evening came and then morning: the third day. <sup>14</sup>Then God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for seasons and for days and years. <sup>15</sup>They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule over the day and the lesser light to rule over the night—as well as the stars. <sup>17</sup>God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>Evening came and then morning: the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>Then God said, “Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” <sup>21</sup>So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged creature according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them: “Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup>Evening came and then morning: the fifth day. <sup>24</sup>Then God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup>So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” <sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. <sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.” <sup>29</sup>God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, <sup>30</sup>for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning: the sixth day. <sup>1</sup>So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. <sup>2</sup>On the seventh day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*A moment of silence for meditation and reflection on God's Word.*

Leader: 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 Him who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord.

People. Amen.

## CROSSING THE RED SEA

*Exodus 14:10-15:6 (CSB)*

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and there were the Egyptians coming after them! The Israelites were terrified and cried out to the LORD for help. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Isn’t this what we told you in Egypt: Leave us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians? 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, “Don’t be afraid. Stand firm and see the LORD’s salvation that he will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you, and you must be quiet.” <sup>15</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to break camp. <sup>16</sup>As for you, lift up your staff, stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>As for me, I am going to harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them, and I will receive glory by means of Pharaoh, all his army, and his chariots and horsemen. <sup>18</sup>The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I receive glory through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” <sup>19</sup>Then the angel of God, who was going in front of the Israelite forces, moved and went behind them. The pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and stood behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the Egyptian and Israelite forces. There was cloud and darkness, it lit up the night, and neither group came near the other all night long. <sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land. So the waters were divided, <sup>22</sup>and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with the waters like a wall to them on their right and their left.

<sup>23</sup>The Egyptians set out in pursuit—all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen—and went into the sea after them. <sup>24</sup>During the morning watch, the LORD looked down at the Egyptian forces from the pillar of fire and cloud, and threw the Egyptian forces into confusion. <sup>25</sup>He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and made them drive with difficulty. “Let’s get away from Israel,” the Egyptians said, “because 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 on the Egyptians, on their chariots and horsemen.” <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal

depth. While the Egyptians were trying to escape from it, the LORD threw them into the sea.<sup>28</sup> The water came back and covered the chariots and horsemen, plus the entire army of Pharaoh that had gone after them into the sea. Not even one of them survived.<sup>29</sup> But the Israelites had walked through the sea on dry ground, with the waters like a wall to them on their right and their left.<sup>30</sup> That day the LORD saved Israel from the power of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.<sup>31</sup> When Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses.<sup>1</sup> Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD. They said:

## HYMN RESPONSE

## “Song of Moses and Israel” (vv. 1-6)

*Hymn 925*

*Refrain*

I will sing to the LORD, for He has tri-umphed glo - rious - ly; the horse and his rid-er He has thrown in - to the sea.

*Chant Tone*

**<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my strength | and my song,  
and He has become my sal- | vation;  
<sup>2</sup>this is my God, and I will | praise Him,  
my father's God, and I will ex- | alt Him.**

## Refrain

**<sup>3</sup>The LORD is a | man of war;  
the LORD | is His name.**

**<sup>4</sup>Pharaoh's chariots and his host He cast in- | to the sea,  
and his chosen officers were sunk in the | Red Sea.**

**<sup>5</sup>The floods | covered them;  
they went down into the depths | like a stone.**

**<sup>6</sup>Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,  
Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.**

## Refrain



Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence for meditation and reflection on God's Word.*

## **DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN**

*Daniel 6:1-27 (CSB)*

<sup>1</sup>Darius decided to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, stationed throughout the realm, <sup>2</sup>and over them three administrators, including Daniel. These satraps would be accountable to them so that the king would not be defrauded. <sup>3</sup>Daniel distinguished himself above the administrators and satraps because he had an extraordinary spirit, so the king planned to set him over the whole realm. <sup>4</sup>The administrators and satraps, therefore, kept trying to find a charge against Daniel regarding the kingdom. But they could find no charge or corruption, for he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him. <sup>5</sup>Then these men said, "We will never find any charge against this Daniel unless we find something against him concerning the law of his God." <sup>6</sup>So the administrators and satraps went together to the king and said to him, "May King Darius live forever. <sup>7</sup>All the administrators of the kingdom—the prefects, satraps, advisers, and governors—have agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an edict that, for thirty days, anyone who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions' den. <sup>8</sup>Therefore, Your Majesty, establish the edict and sign the document so that, as a law of the Medes and Persians, it is irrevocable and cannot be changed." <sup>9</sup>So King Darius signed the written edict. <sup>10</sup>When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before. <sup>11</sup>Then these men went as a group and found Daniel petitioning and imploring his God. <sup>12</sup>So they approached the king and asked about his edict: "Didn't you sign an edict that for thirty days any person who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "As a law of the Medes and Persians, the order stands and is irrevocable." <sup>13</sup>Then they replied to the king, "Daniel, one of the Judean exiles, has ignored you, the king, and the edict you signed, for he prays three times a day."

<sup>14</sup>As soon as the king heard this, he was very displeased; he set his mind on rescuing Daniel and made every effort until sundown to deliver him. <sup>15</sup>Then these men went together to the king and said to him, "You know, Your Majesty, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no edict or ordinance the king establishes can be changed." <sup>16</sup>So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you



continually serve, rescue you!”<sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing in regard to Daniel could be changed.<sup>18</sup> Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting. No diversions were brought to him, and he could not sleep.<sup>19</sup> At the first light of dawn the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den.<sup>20</sup> When he reached the den, he cried out in anguish to Daniel. “Daniel, servant of the living God,” the king said, “has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lions?”<sup>21</sup> Then Daniel spoke with the king: “May the king live forever.<sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths; and they haven’t harmed me, for I was found innocent before him. And also before you, Your Majesty, I have not done harm.”<sup>23</sup> The king was overjoyed and gave orders to take Daniel out of the den. When Daniel was brought up from the den, he was found to be unharmed, for he trusted in his God.<sup>24</sup> The king then gave the command, and those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, were brought and thrown into the lions’ den—they, their children, and their wives. They had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote to those of every people, nation, and language who live on the whole earth: “May your prosperity abound.<sup>26</sup> I issue a decree that in all my royal dominion, people must tremble in fear before the God of Daniel: For he is the living God, and he endures forever; his kingdom will never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end.<sup>27</sup> He rescues and delivers; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth, for he has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence for meditation and reflection on God’s Word.*

**Leader:** Let us pray. O God, Your Son protected faithful Daniel in the lions’ den. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **RESURRECTION MORNING**

*Mark 16:1-8*

**Leader:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the sixteenth chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they could go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb at sunrise. <sup>3</sup>They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?” <sup>4</sup>Looking up, they noticed that the stone—which was very large—had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup>When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>“Don’t be alarmed,” he told them. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you.’ ” <sup>8</sup>They went out and ran from the tomb, because trembling and astonishment overwhelmed them. And they said nothing to anyone, since they were afraid.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to You O Christ!

*A moment of silence for meditation and reflection on God’s Word.*

*(The lights in the church are turned on and the altar candles are lit from the Christ Candle while the church bells are rung and the congregation begins to sing.)*

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” (verse 4)

Hymn 436

**Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?  
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.**

### **\*EASTER ACCLAMATION**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### **MEDITATION**

### **SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE**

Leader: On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with

Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

**People: Yes, I renounce him.**

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

**People: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

**People: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was**

**conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**Leader:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People:** **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.**

**Leader:** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth through water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life + everlasting.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Leader:** Peace be with you.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIVIDUAL WORSHIP**

*Individuals may remain in the pews or attend the prayer stations to:*

Remember your Baptism at the font with the sign of the cross.  
*"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." - Galatians 3:27*

Place an offering in the collection plate as a spiritual act of worship.  
*"Bring an offering and come before Him." - 1 Chronicles 16:29*

Come before the altar and kneel at the railings for prayer.  
*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." - Romans 12:12*

Light a candle at the candle station at the altar steps.  
*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12*

## SONG CONCLUDING INDIVIDUAL WORSHIP TIME

**"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"**  
(vv. 1-2 & 7-8)

*Hymn 461*

**I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.**

**He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.**

**He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.**

**He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!**

## SERVICE OF PRAYER

*(Please kneel)*

### LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

**Leader:** O Lord,

**People:** have mercy.

**Leader:** O Christ,

**People:** have mercy.

**Leader:** O Lord,

**People:** have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**People:** Hear us.

**Leader:** Paschal Lamb, who has taken away the sin of the world,

**People:** Have mercy on us.

**Leader:** Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,

**People:** Have mercy on us.

Leader: Who destroyed death by dying, and by raising to life again brought life and immortality to light,  
**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,  
**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,  
**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,  
**People: good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader: By Your victory over sin and death,  
**People: good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader: By the majesty of Your risen body,  
**People: good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader: We poor sinners implore You,  
**People: to hear us, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,  
**People: grant us good Lord.**

Leader: That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,  
**People: grant us good Lord.**

Leader: That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all Your saints,  
**People: grant us good Lord.**

Leader: Christ the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: Christ the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: Christ the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
People: grant us Your peace.

*(Please stand)*

### **\*CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray.  
O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance, and that day by day we may rise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

### **\*BENEDICAMUS**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### **\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, The Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

### **\*CLOSING HYMN      "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"**

*Hymn 487*

*(vv. 1, 2, 4 & 5)*



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain      Of tri - um-phant glad-ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day:      Christ has burst His pris - on  
4 For to - day a-mong His own      Christ ap-peared, be - stow - ing  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry      To our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el      In - to joy from sad - ness,  
And from three days' sleep in death      As a sun has ris - en;  
His deep peace, which ev - er - more      Pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars      Of the tomb's dark por - tal.





Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing  
Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal  
Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
Nor the watch - ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.  
God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!

## PARTICIPANTS

The Preacher  
The Liturgists  
The Organist  
The Sound Technician  
The Elder on Duty  
The Greeters  
The Ushers

Vicar Mark Esser  
The Rev. Charles T. Reich, The Rev. Brendon T. Moore  
Kathy Schelp  
Bruce Wales  
Jennifer Smith  
Dr. Terry & Janet Hostler  
Chuck & Carol Smith

## CREDITS

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