

The Great Vigil of Easter

19 April 2025 7:30 PM

Welcome

The Ministers and People gather outside. In the darkness, fire is kindled for

The Service of Light

The Celebrant says

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Celebrant: Let us pray. O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast, we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The fire is honored with incense. The Paschal Candle is lighted from the newly kindled fire. The members of the congregation then proceed into the church and are seated. The Deacon, bearing the Candle, leads the procession, pausing three times and singing



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

At the second and third pause, the Versicle and Response is sung successively a step higher.

As the Deacon processes into the church, the members of the congregation seated on the aisle light their candles from the Paschal Candle and then distribute the light to other members of the congregation.

All (who are able) remain standing in the dimmed church while the cantor sings.

The Exsultet

The Liturgy of the Word

The Celebrant introduces the Scripture readings, saying

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

The Congregation is seated for the readings and the psalms.

Creation Story

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Hymn

"Spirit of the Living God"

LEVAS, 115

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

All stand. The priest says,

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature; grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All are seated for the reading of

Abraham's sacrifice

Genesis 22: 1-18

HYMN

“Be Still, My Soul”



1. Be still, my soul— the Lord is on thy side!
2. Be still, my soul— thy God doth un - der - take
3. Be still, my soul— the hour is has - t'ning on



1. Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;
2. To guide the fu - ture as he has the past;
3. When we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord,



1. Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide—
2. Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake—
3. When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,



1. In ev - 'ry change he faith - ful will re - main.
2. All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
3. Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.



1. Be still, my soul— thy best, thy heav'n - ly friend
2. Be still, my soul— the waves and winds still know
3. Be still, my soul— when change and tears are past,



1. Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
2. His voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
3. All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Text: 10 10 10 10 10 10; Katharina von Schlegel; in *Neue Sammlung Geislicher Lieder*, 1752; tr. by Jane Borthwick, 1813–1897. Music: Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957.

All stand. An assisting priest says,

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

God and Father of all believers, for the glory of your Name multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number of your children; that your Church may rejoice to see fulfilled your promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All are seated for the reading of

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-15:1

Song

Go Down Moses, chorus (choir and congregation sing responses)



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land; tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo - ple go.

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arr. Copyright © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer.

All stand. The priest says,

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

All are seated for the reading of

Learn Wisdom and Live

Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6

Hymn

“Come my way, my truth, my life”

Hymn is printed on the next page.

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a

way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can

strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

*All stand. The priest says,
 Let us pray. (Silence)*

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

All are seated for the reading of
A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Wash me a-way un-til all that's left is love, Great Spir-it Wash me a-

6 1. Final time
 way un-til all that's left is love, Great Spir-it love,

*All stand. The priest says,
 Let us pray. (Silence)*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

All are seated for the reading of
The Valley of the Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Hymn

“Now the green blade riseth”



1 Now the green blade ris - eth from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that nev - er he would wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
thy touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring - eth green.

All stand. An assisting priest says,
Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Homily

The Reverend Mary D. Lindquist

Holy Baptism

All are invited to stand and gather around the baptismal font.

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsors I present Caleb Harrison Love Webb to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

I present Michael Colin Hightower to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Priest asks the candidate when presented

Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidates I do.

Then the Priest asks the following questions of the candidate.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

After they have been presented, the Priest addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Michael and Caleb in their life in Christ?

People. **We will.**

The Priest then says

Let us join with Caleb and Michael who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Then all stand to say the

Baptismal Covenant

Priest Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead**

Priest Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People **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.**

Priest Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

The Priest then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for Michael and Caleb who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth

Leader Deliver them O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Priest says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Priest blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Priest

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Priest says the Thanksgiving over water.

Baptism

Caleb/Michael, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Chrismation

Caleb/Michael, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

Amen.

Bishop Ely lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant Michael/Caleb with your Holy Spirit;
empower him for your service; and sustain him all the days
of his life. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these
your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them O
Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to
persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

The Priest says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Priest and People

**We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his
resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

CHANT

Melody

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

Harmony

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

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Following this chant, there is a brief time of silence, then the Easter acclamation and the ringing of bells. When the lights come on and you may extinguish your candles.

The First Holy Communion of Easter

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The Celebrant chants this announcement three times.

The assembly is sprinkled with water to remind people of their baptisms.

Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today

Hymn is printed on the next page.

The Hymnal, 207

Descant



1 Je - sus Christ is risen 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 heaven - 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 ye heaven - 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!

Words: Latin, 14th cent.; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt. St. 4, Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Easter Hymn*, from *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; adapt. *The Compleat Psalmist*, 1749, alt., desc. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, Revised, 1950. Descant by permission of Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

The congregation may return to their seats after being sprinkled with holy water.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

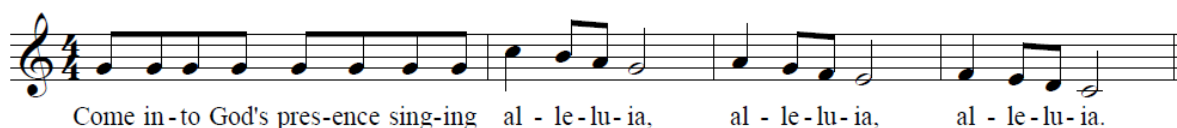
Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Early Church

Romans 6:3-11

All stand to ring bells and to sing this gradual



As the procession enters the nave all turn to face the gospel book for the

Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Following the reading:

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Peace

Officiant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Hymn

We know that Christ is raised

The Hymnal 296

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.

Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,

and our despair he turned to blazing joy.

Alleluia!

2 We share by water in his saving death.

Reborn, we share with him an Easter life

as living members of a living Christ.

Alleluia!

3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God, the Three in One.
Alleluia!

4 A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing:
Alleluia!

Holy Communion

Following the Peace, we will sing while the altar is set and censed. Then all are invited to come up and stand around the altar to celebrate the first Holy Communion of Easter. After you receive Communion, you may return to your seats for the final prayer.

All return to their seats.

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant blesses the people. The people respond to each petition with a loud "Amen."

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us children through the resurrection of Christ our Savior, bestow upon you the riches of blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

Hymn

The Hymnal, 178

The hymn is printed on the next page.

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

1-4 *Final Ending*

Praise to his Name. Name.

Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
 4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

Repeat Refrain

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 Now we shall live for ev - er. Al - le -
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

The Officiant dismisses the people with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

“Postlude on ‘Jesus Christ is Risen Today,’”

Noel Rawsthorne

Participants Today

Deacon – *The Reverend Lars Hunter*; Baptismal Sponsor – *The Reverend adwoa Wilson*; Lay Assistants – *Annamarie Pluhar* and *Craig Irvine*; Thurifer – *Ann Ely*; Exsultet – *Jenny Karstad*; Acolytes – *Abbie Haineswood* and *Leo Storm*; Readers: *Laura Andrews, Cary Gaunt, Gabriel Sistare, Erin Pesut, Kira Storm, Dyana Lee, Kim Peavey, William Stearns* and *Peter Johnson*; Ushers – *Brian Morgan, William Stearns, Elizabeth Freese*, and *Jay Pomponio*; Baptismal Candidates – *Caleb Webb* and *Michael Hightower*; Celebrant – *The Right Reverend Thomas Ely*; Preacher – *The Reverend Mary Lindquist*; Altar Guild – *Jane Sbardella, Sherry Stimmel*; Easter flowers – *Marie Lawrence* and *Vangie Holvino*.

EASTER FLOWERS

To the glory of God:

Given by Dorrie DeGutis

Given by Tom and Barbara Evans

In Thanksgiving For:

Our grandchildren, given by Susan and Michael Wilmott

Family and friends, given by Bob and Judy Walker

Our parish, given by Christine Hart

Doug Switzer, given by Karen Davis

My parents, Susan and Michael Wilmott, given by Anne Brown.

In Memory of:

Daniel Dobson, given by Susan Gantt Kubert

Bruce Hesselbach, given by Carol Hesselbach

Tim Gallagher, Nancy and Halsey Hicks, given by Pam and Paul Gallagher

Len and Shirley Ely, Benn and Martha Wiggins, Scott Ely, Benn Wiggins, given by Ann and Tom Ely

Betty Elwell, given by Christine Hart

The McGee Family, the Swift Family, and Marge Turek, given by Judith McGee

Rich Blazej, Doris and August Spahr, Jr, Kirsten MacGregor, Doris Elizabeth Spahr, given by Lucy Spahr-Blazej

Our brothers Sam and Michael, given by Dorothy and Nicholas Porter

Greg Lesch, given by Karen Davis

Our parents, Hannelore Polley, and Richard and Grace Karstad, given by Iris Polley and Jenny Karstad

Our parents, given by Tom and Barbara Evans

Robert R. Anderson, given by Becky Anderson

Phyllis Lindquist, given by Mary Lindquist and family

Edgar & Elizabeth Buttenheim, given by Gay Maxwell

In Celebration of:

In celebration of Peter Davidson, *given by Judy Davidson*

Honoring our ancestors, *given by Vangie Holwino*