

**Vigil of Easter**  
**April 3, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.**



***Holy Saturday/Vigil of Easter***

*The Vigil of Easter begins with a new fire. We gather at the Garden of Memory. Here from this place associated with death we begin the third portion of the Triduum. The Vigil of Easter is the first celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. We move from the Garden of Memory into the darkened church where we hear salvation history recounted through a series of readings from Holy Scripture. The sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated. Prayers are offered. We make the transition from darkness to light, from death to resurrection as the first hymn of Easter is sung. The Easter gospel is read, Holy Communion celebrated and we joyfully take our leave anticipating the full glorious celebration of Easter on Sunday morning.*

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**Thank you for your faithfulness** in sending your offering through the mail, by using online options from your financial institution, or through the “Donate” now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Face masks are required inside,*

*Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

### Offerings:

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### While in the Nave:

*Please wear your mask. Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.*

### Communion Procedure:

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Norma Shue, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

**VIGIL OF EASTER**  
**APRIL 3, 2021—7:00 PM**

*The People gather at the Garden of Memory to begin with the Service of Light.  
A new fire is kindled.*

Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. The Lord invites his people throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord! We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his Word and by Celebrating his sacraments. In them Christ gives us confidence and hope that we shall share his victory over death and live with him forever.

**+ THE SERVICE OF LIGHT +**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*After a period of reflection, a small candle is lighted.*

Let us pray. Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter festival of light which has no ending; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*As the following words are said, the presiding minister traces a cross, an Alpha and an Omega, and the date of the current year on the Paschal Candle to indicate that the Risen Christ is the Lord of the universe for all time.*

Christ, yesterday and today,  
the beginning and the end;  
Alpha! and Omega!  
All time belongs to him, and all the ages,  
to him be glory and power,  
through every age and forever.

*The Paschal Candle is lighted from the new light.*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory this night dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds. The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share this night in your mysteries may be filled with your grace and heavenly blessing, that as we were in darkness but are now in the light of the Lord, we may walk as children of the light; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The following is sung three times as the procession leads the people into the church nave.*

*Please note the seating marked green (sit here) and red (d not sit).*

*Please observe physical distancing.*

The Light of Christ

**Thanks be to God.**

+ THE EXSULTET +

*To the cantor.* The Lord be in your heart and on your lips, that you may worthily proclaim his Easter praise. In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Rejoice, now, all heavenly choirs of angels, and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and, for the victory of so great a King, sound the trumpet of salvation. Exult, also, O earth, enlightened with such radiance; and, made brilliant by the splendor of the eternal King know that the ancient darkness has been banished from all the world. Be glad also, O mother Church, clothed with the brightness of such a light, and let this house resound with the triumphant voices of the peoples.

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

*p* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right and salutary that we should with full devotion of heart and mind and voice praise the invisible God, the Father Almighty, and his only Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ; who paid for us the debt of Adam to the eternal Father, and who by his precious blood redeemed us from the bondage to the ancient sin. For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain, by whose blood the door posts of the faithful are made holy. This is the night in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, from the land of Egypt; and led them, dryshod, through the Red Sea. This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness, by the rising brightness. This is the night in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph. O Night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and the hour wherein Christ arose again from hell! O night truly blessed in which heaven and earth are joined – things human and things divine. We, therefore, pray to you, O Lord, that he, in whose honor this candle burns, will continue to vanquish the darkness of this night and faithfully shed light on all the human race; through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ THE SERVICE OF READING +

Dear Friends in Christ, we have begun our solemn vigil. Let us now listen attentively to the Word of God, recalling how he saved his people throughout history and, in the fullness of time, sent his Son to be our redeemer.

*The antiphon "Send Fourth Your Spirit" follows each reading.  
It is sung by the cantor and then repeated by the congregation.*

ANTIPHON

Psalm 104: 31

Organ:  Everyone: 

Send forth your Spir-it, O Lord, and re-new the face of the earth.

<b>FIRST READING</b> <i>Antiphon</i>	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Creation
<b>SECOND READING</b> <i>Antiphon</i>	Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13	Noah
<b>THIRD READING</b> <i>Antiphon</i>	Genesis 22:1-18	Binding of Isaac
<b>FOURTH READING</b> <i>Antiphon</i>	Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21	Red Sea
<b>FIFTH READING</b> <i>Antiphon</i>	Ezekiel 37:1-4	Dry Bones
<b>SIXTH READING</b> <i>Antiphon</i>	Jonah 3:1-10	Call of Jonah
<b>SEVENTH READING</b> <i>Antiphon</i>	Daniel 3:1-29	Firey Furnace

+THE AFFIRMATION OF HOLY BAPTISM +

*The people stand turning toward the Baptismal font.*

The Lord be with you.                      **And also with you.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord.        **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Sisters and brothers, on this most holy night the church keeps vigil, awaiting the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle teaches us that by our Baptism we are buried with Christ and lay dead in order that as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendor of the Father, so we should set our feet on the new path of life. Therefore, now that the struggle of Lent is over, let us renew the promises made at Baptism.

I therefore, ask you: Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises?

**I do.**

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, 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 into hell.**

**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.**

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. Amen.**

You have made public confession 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 his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

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

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Holy Spirit you have made these men and women your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

+ **The Litany** +

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Alleluia.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for meditation*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

**To you, O Lord.**

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Amen**

**+The Holy Eucharist +**

**HYMN**

*Alleluia! Jesus is Risen (WOV 674)*

*Cantor sings stanzas. Congregation sings refrain*

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Alleluia! Jesus is risen!<br>Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! | Trumpets resounding in glorious light!<br>Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! |
|---|--|--|



- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 2 | Walking the way, Christ in the center<br>telling the story to open our eyes;<br>breaking our bread, giving us glory:<br>Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.<br><b>Refrain</b> | 3 | Jesus the vine, we are the branches;<br>life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;<br>heaven to earth, Christ to the people,<br>gift of the future now flowing to me.<br><b>Refrain</b> |
| 4 | Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:<br>death put asunder, and Easter is bright.<br>Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!<br>Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.<br><b>Refrain</b>    | 5 | City of God, Easter forever,<br>golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,<br>river of life, saints and archangels,<br>sing with creation to God the I AM!<br><b>Refrain</b>                    |



## **APOSTOLIC 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

St. John 20:1-18

## **EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**  
*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please refrain from shaking hands and fist bumps as we take precautions due to the Coronavirus. A simple verbal greeting will be fine.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you,  
**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **DIALOGUE**

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.**

## **PREFACE** *The proper preface for the day is spoken.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God.  
But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS** Sung by the cantor. Congregation joins at **C**

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. **C** Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**THANKSGIVING**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

## FRACTION RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.  
When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.  
**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

AGNUS DEI *Sung by Cantor*

*Sit*

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*Our communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.*

*Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.*

**Hymns during the distribution:** *This Joyful Eastertide (WOV 676) back page*

*Stand*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen **He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The people remain standing until the ministers have left the chancel.*

POSTLUDE *Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia* Benjamin Culli

# This Joyful Eastertide



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the



sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall  
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my



sprung to life this mor - - row.  
wake the dead in num - - ber.  
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

## *Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our



faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - - - - - en.

*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.  
Feel free to gather outside for conversation.  
Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*