

Vigil of Easter

April 16, 2022 – 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

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WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 186 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Maundy Thursday/Holy Thursday Maundy Thursday is the beginning of the Triduum. This is one large liturgy spread across three days. Historically it has been called The Great Three Days. The first part of the three part liturgy is begun on Maundy Thursday. The service begins with the sermon and then is followed by confession with absolution. Foot washing and Holy Communion are historic components as we reflect on the new commandment that we “love one another.”

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

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

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Wearing a mask while in worship is optional.

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

Communion Procedure:

- 1.1. *Come to communion using the center aisle (about 8 adults per side).*
- 2.2. *Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).*
- 3.3. *Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 4.4. *Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5.5. *Extend your hands to receive the communion host.*
- 6.6. *Consume the communion host.*
- 7.7. *Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.*
- 8.8. *Consume the wine.*
- 9.9. *Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 10.10. *Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

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

VIGIL OF EASTER
APRIL 16, 2022—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 take a hand candle from the basket as you enter the church.*

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.**

Please extinguish hand candles.

+THE AFFIRMATION OF HOLY BAPTISM +
The people stand turning toward the Baptismal font.

HYMN

O Blessed Spring (ELW 447)



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

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 +

Following each petition the congregation responds singing “Lord, have mercy.”

In peace, 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.

To you, O 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.

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

The Day of Resurrection! (ELW 361)

The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,

- 1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
- 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
- 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
- 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

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

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 all*

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.

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.

Hymn 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
Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God.

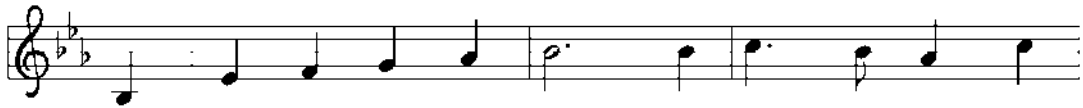
The people remain standing until the ministers have left the chancel.

POSTLUDE

Our Paschal Lamb That Sets Us Free

Jacob Weber

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.