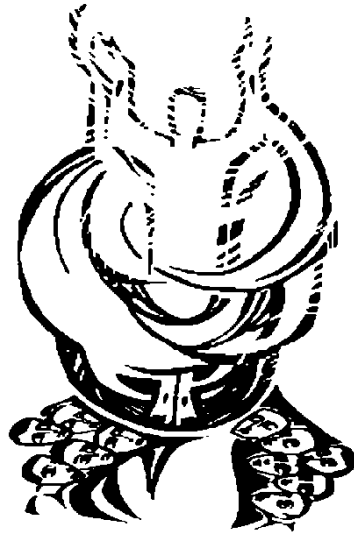


Vigil of Easter



We Gather

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church's year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, welcome new sisters and brothers at the font, and share the food and drink of the Promised Land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

In Narthex or outside

GATHERING TIME

The congregation and leaders gather in the narthex or church yard. When all have gathered, the liturgy begins.

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.

P 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.

P Let us pray. O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: 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.

C Amen.

The presiding minister lights the paschal candle.

P: The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

As the assisting minister holds up the candle, the congregation responds:

The Light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

The assisting minister leads the procession to the door of the church where the candle is lifted once again.

The Light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Worshippers enter the church and light their candles from the Paschal candle. The assisting minister leads the congregation into the darkened church up to the font. The assisting minister lifts the candle one more time.

The Light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

THE EXULTET – The Proclamation of the Resurrection

Rejoice heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King is risen! **AMEN**

Sound the trumpet of salvation! Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King! **AMEN**

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever! Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! **AMEN**

Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

AMEN

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!

This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.

This is the night when first you saved our fathers: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin!

This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.

This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

What good would life have been to us, had Christ not come as our Redeemer?

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love!

To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.

Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead! Of this night scripture says: "The night will be clear as day: it will become my light, my joy." The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy; it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride. This is the night in which heaven and earth are joined – things human and things divine.

We pray to you, O Lord, that this candle, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of night and be mingled with the lights of heaven. May Christ, the Morning Star, faithfully shed light on the whole human race.

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen! Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and for so great a victory sound the trumpet of salvation!

Amen!

Rejoice O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes away forever!

Amen!

Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

Amen!

And we pray, O God, rule, govern and preserve with your continuing protection, your whole church, giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

The Exultet now ended, the lights come up low, worshipers may extinguish their tapers and be seated. The service of readings begins.

P 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.

FIRST READING: Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13

L The word of God. The word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: PSALM 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**

³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. ^[c]

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.**

⁵ God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

⁶ **Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.**

⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸ **Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.**

⁹ He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields ^[d] with fire.

¹⁰ He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Brief silence

P 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 the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SECOND READING: Exodus 14: 10-15:21

L The word of God. The word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray. O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

THIRD READING: Isaiah 55: 1-11

L The word of God. The word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: Isaiah 12: 2-6

Surely God is /my salvation;

I will trust, and will not /be afraid,

For the Lord God is my strength /and my might;

he has become /my salvation.

With joy you /will draw water* from the wells /of salvation.

And you will say in that day: Give thanks / to the Lord, call /on his name

Make known his deeds a /mong the nations; proclaim that his name / is exalted.

Sing praises /to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in /all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, / O royal Zion,*

for great in your midst is the Holy /One of Israel.

P Let us pray. Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FOURTH READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

L The word of God, the word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: PSALM 98

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made his salvation known

and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

³ He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

⁴ **Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;**

⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,

⁶ **with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.**

⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;**

⁹ let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

P Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

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

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy us and all living things. Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free, no longer male or female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

And so: Do you reject Satan? **I do.**

And all his works? **I do.**

And all his empty promises? **I do.**

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty creator of heaven and earth?

I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

I do.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

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

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

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

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May God also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray... We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

All the lights come up full, and as the hymn of praise is sung,

ASPERGES: While the hymn is sung, the presider sprinkles the congregation with water in remembrance of their baptism.



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

New Testament Reading: Romans 6:3-11

We were incorporated into the death of Jesus Christ in baptism and so were liberated from the dominion of sin. We also anticipate that we will be incorporated into the resurrection of Christ and so will be liberated from the hold death has over our mortal bodies.

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of God. The word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 20:1-18

John's Gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following

him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SERMON

HYMN #369

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

LLANFAIR

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our risen Lord Jesus reveals himself in the breaking of the bread. Here at this meal, let us pray that we may be fed with the bread of life.

A brief silence is kept.

INTERCESSIONS

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all who minister—bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders and all the baptized;

That they may be faithful in revealing your light and mercy in daily life.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C: Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

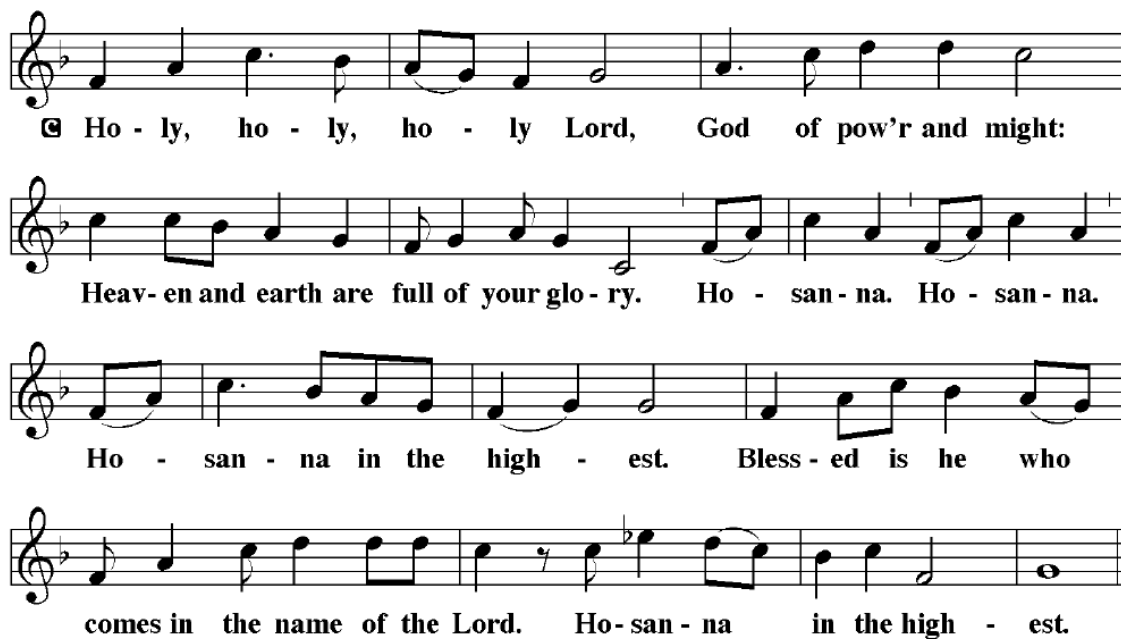
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending



☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

On the night he was betrayed, our Savior Jesus, bowed and prayed,
With his disciples he is speaking to us....

He took the loaf and broke the bread, held it high and then he said
This is my body, remember me, Hallelujah.

Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah...

After the meal, the cup he raised, the Father's name again he praised
This is my blood poured out for your forgiveness.

A promise given and fulfilled, though I am taken away and killed
Remember me, I am with you, Hallelujah.

Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah...

So, gathered as His body here, refusing to give in to fear
And all the powers of death that seek to lead us.

We stretch our hands, we cry and sing and tell the world HE is our
KING

We cannot help but claim this Hallelujah!

Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah... Hallelujah...

**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.**

P The gifts of God for the people of God.
C: Thank be to God!

☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Holy Communion is open to all who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in this Meal of Life.
 Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing.*

Communion Music

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray... O Lord,

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #376

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABAEUS

THE SENDING

Go in peace. Share the good news! Alleluia!!

Thanks be to God!!! Alleluia!!!!

