



“He Is Risen”

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Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

THE FIRST SERVICE OF EASTER

April 19, 2025

Half after seven o' clock

*Please gather silently in the Great Hall
(silence all cell phones and electronic devices).*

The Great Vigil of Easter is the brightest jewel of Christian liturgy traced to early Christian times. Traditionally, the East Vigil begins at sunset, in keeping with the ancient Jewish/Christian understanding of evening as the start of a new day. It proclaims the universal significance of God's saving acts in history through the services of light, readings, the Sacrament of Baptism, and the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper:

The Service of Lights: *The Christ, or "paschal" candle in our midst is a symbol of Christ throughout this service. It reminds us that Christ came as a light shining in darkness.*

The Service of Readings: *The scriptures from the Old and New Testament provide a panoramic view of what God has done for humanity. The readings retell our "holy history" as God's people, summarizing the faith into which we are baptized.*

The Service of Baptism and Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant: *In the earliest years of Christianity, baptisms commonly took place during the Easter vigil after the forty day preparation of Lent. Just as water brings both life and death, the waters of the font symbolize that in Baptism we die to sin and are raised to new life. Baptism is most appropriately celebrated and reaffirmed at Easter, uniting believers to Christ's death and resurrection.*

The Service of Communion: *The final service of the vigil is the joyous celebration of the feast of the people of God. The risen Lord invites us all to participate in the new life he brings by knowing him in the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup.*

from *The Book of Common Worship, The Presbyterian Church (USA)*

✦ THE SERVICE OF LIGHT ✦

*Worshippers gather in the Great Hall;
the Sanctuary remains dark following Good Friday,
except for the light of the Christ candle.*

* GREETING Rev. Teresa Larson

Leader: Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: And also with you.

* WORDS OF INTRODUCTION AND PRAYER Rev. Larson

Leader: Beloved people of God, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer:

People: Through light and the Word, through water, bread, and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, we share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and with invincible hope we await Christ's coming again in glory.

Leader: Let us pray:

People: Eternal God, in Jesus Christ You have given the light of life to all the world. Kindle in us tonight the desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.

* PROCESSION INTO THE SANCTUARY

*Leader: The light of Christ rises in glory,
overcoming the darkness of sin and death.*

People: Thanks be to God.

*Worshippers enter the Sanctuary
and light their candles from the elders at each aisle.
Process down the aisles to the pews in the middle sections.*

* INTROIT O Radiant Light, O Sun Divine
"Hymn to Christ the Light", Phos Hilaron, 3rd century
Raymond Roberts, soloist

* Stand as you are able.

* THE SCRIPTURES John 1:1, 4-5

The Rev. Robert Ater

*Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

People: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all
people.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

People: and the darkness has not overcome it.

* SOLO and HYMN 827 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Wie Schon Leuchtet

The soloist sings the first stanza:

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!

You shine with God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy!

*Of Jacob's line, King David's son, our Lord and Savior, you have won
our hearts to serve you only! Lowly, holy! Great and glorious,
all victorious, rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!*

All sing the second stanza:

Lord, when you look on us in love,

At once there falls from God above a ray of purest pleasure.

You word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls
with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure!

Let your mercy warm and cheer us! O draw near us!

For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

* THE EASTER PROCLAMATION (The Exsultet)

Rev. Ater

Leader: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation around God's throne!

Jesus Christ is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

People: Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ is risen!

Leader: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,

radiant in the brightness of your Redeemer!

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!

Darkness vanishes forever!

People: Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ is risen!

Leader: Rejoice, O mother 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!*

People: Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ is risen!

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 our thanks and praise.*

Leader: *Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead. The power of this holy night evokes our wonder and our joy. Night truly blessed, when heaven and earth are joined, and all creation is transformed by God! Invite us into your mystery and receive our offering of praise. May this Easter candle always dispel the darkness of this night!*

People: *May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead and shed his peaceful light on all creation, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.*

All: *Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ is risen!*

Worshippers' candles are extinguished

* HYMN (inside back cover) *Rejoice (This Is the Night)*

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

✠ **The Service of Readings** ✠

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

The Rev. Dr. Randall Bush

Each reading is followed by a brief period of silence and a prayer.

Genesis 1:1-2:4a, selections
the story of creation

Margaret Welch
(OT 1)

Psalms 105:23-43
the story of deliverance

Brad Van Fossen
(OT 556)

Isaiah 55:1-11
the promise of restoration

Susi Stoll
(OT 685)

Ezekiel 36:24-28
the promise of a new heart and spirit

David Perkins
(OT 805)

Romans 6:3-11
the promise of new life in Christ

Rick Brewer
(NT 156)

Luke 24:1-12
the good news of resurrection

Jean Dow
(NT 33)

✠ REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT ✠

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

Rev. Larson

* PROFESSION OF FAITH

To the congregation:

Do you reaffirm your trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

I do.

*Will you be Christ's faithful disciples,
following his teachings and showing his love?*

I will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

(The Apostles' Creed has been used in the baptismal service since the second century.)

* PROFESSION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

Austrian Hymn

I believe in God Almighty,

Who the heav'ns and earth did make.

And in Christ, God's Son and Promise,

Giv'n to us for our own sake;

By the Holy Spirit living, To the humble Virgin born –

Light to all who dwell in darkness,

Hope and joy to those who mourn.

At the hands of mortal tyrants, God's Immortal bore our pain;

On a cross He bled to cleanse us, Death to quell, and life to gain.

From the grave's dark grasp He frees us,

In the tomb with us He lies;

Three short days, and hell is vanquished –

Hearts rejoice to see Him rise!

To the heav'nly courts of justice,

Christ ascends to take His place,

There at God's right hand to judge us –

Living, dying, through His grace.

I confess the Holy Spirit,

And God's Church on earth, my home;

Saints and sinners, freed, forgiven –

Crowned with life all time to come.

Text: Michael Morgan © 2002

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Rev. Larson

Water is poured into the font as words of thanks are spoken.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Eternal and gracious God, we give You thanks for the countless ways You have revealed Yourself in ages past, and have blessed us with signs of Your grace.

People: We praise You that through the waters of the sea You led Your people Israel out of slavery into the freedom of Your promise.

Leader: We praise You for sending Jesus, who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, and was anointed as the Christ by Your Holy Spirit.

People: Through the baptism of his death and resurrection You set us free from sin and death, and give us cleansing and rebirth.

Leader: We praise You for Your Holy Spirit, who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with a variety of gifts, that we might proclaim the gospel and serve You as a faithful people.

People: We rejoice that You claimed us in our baptism, and that by Your grace we are born anew. Renew in us the covenant you made in our baptism. By Your Holy Spirit send us forth to love and serve you with joy, to strive for peace and justice in all the earth, and to continue in the risen life of Christ. Amen.

Leader: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

* HYMN 485 We Know That Christ Is Raised

Engelberg

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Persons who wish to reaffirm their baptism by the laying on of hands and the sign of the cross [+] may come forward.

✠ The Service of Holy Communion ✠

Gifts of bread and wine are presented by the elders.

THE INVITATION

Rev. Ater

Leader: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People: They will come from east and west and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

Leader: According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

People: This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Ater, Dr. Bush

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 our thanks and praise.

Leader: By Your wisdom, you created the world and everything in it; by your power, you have delivered us from evil in every age; by your mercy, you have promised never to forsake us.

People: He died that we might live, and is risen to raise us to new life.

Leader: Therefore we praise You, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of Your name:

The Sanctus *(all sing)*

Tune: Genevan 42

Holy, holy, holy, holy; God of power and God of might,
heav'n and earth are full of glory;
sing Hosanna to the Lord!

Blessed is the One who comes
in the Lord's most holy name.

Sing Hosanna in the highest;
sing Hosanna; sing God's praises.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, whom You sent to save us.

People: He came with healing in his touch,
and was wounded for our sins.

*Leader: He came with mercy in his voice,
and was mocked as one despised.*

*People: He came with peace in his heart,
and met with violence and death.*

Leader: By Your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb.

People: The One who was dead now lives!

Leader: Let us pray for God's rule on earth as Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD; THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All persons, regardless of age or denomination,
are invited to the Table.*

*It is our practice to serve unfermented wine.
Gluten-free bread is at the center of each tray.*

RESPONSE AND PRAYER

Rev. Ater

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith:

*People: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.*

Leader: Gracious God, by Your power and grace Christ is risen. We have recalled Your mighty acts in holy history. We have seen Your power in sending light to overcome darkness, water to give us life, and the bread of heaven to nourish us in love.

People: Send us with Your salvation and joy to all the world.

Leader: Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead!

*People: Gracious God, in the joy of this night, receive our thanks and praise. **Amen.***

SILENT MEDITATION

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

We Know That Christ Is Raised 485

Capo 3: (D)

(Asus) (A) (A/G) (D/F#)
 F Csus C C/B^b F/A

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

(D) (A) (D) (E7) (A)
 F C F G7 C

Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life
 The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

(Am) (D) (G) (Em) (Bm)
 Cm F G^b Gm Dm

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse, re - stored and whole, will sing:

1-3 4
 (Em) (D) (Asus) (A) (Em) (D)
 Gm F Csus C Gm F

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Beginning with an allusion to Romans 6:9, this exuberant baptismal hymn unfolds the implications of our incorporation into Christ's new life, making us "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The text was written to fit this expansive tune by a distinguished British composer.

TEXT: John Brownlow Geyer, 1967, alt.
 MUSIC: Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904
 Text © 1972 John Brownlow Geyer

ENGLBERG
 10.10.10.4
 (this tune in a higher key, 641)

240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Descant

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

Refrain E C#m F#m B

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

al - le - lu - ia! Praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B E

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

E C#m F#m B

- 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,

E C#m F#m B

to Refrain

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

This text and tune were created together in the context of an ecumenical, charismatic, missionary Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their energy and emphasis center in the opening and closing refrain's "Alleluia"—the essential Easter word of proclamation.

Rejoice (This is the Night)

A hymn for the Easter Vigil procession

David Gambrell, © 2009
Based on the Exsultet

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben (7676D)
Melchior Teschner, 1614



Re - joice in earth and hea - ven, the dark of night has



fled, for Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior is ri - sen from the



dead! This is the night of pass - o - ver, when
This is the night of ex - o - dus, when
This is the night of bap - ti - sm, when
This is the night of vic - to - ry, when



Christ the lamb was slain. Up - on a cross he
God first set us free. With feet as dry as
sin is washed a - way. As new and ho - ly
Christ de - fied the grave. The chains of death are



suf - fered; in glo - ry now he reigns.
de - serts we dance be - yond the sea.
peo - ple we greet the dawn - ing day.
shat - tered, for God has come to save.

Repeat refrain



Bulletins returned to the tables in the Narthex will be recycled.



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A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Randall K. Bush	Interim Pastor
Robert W. Ater	Associate Pastor
Teresa A. Larson	Associate Pastor
Steven J. Jensen	Organist
John S. Komasa	Choir Director
Crystal Stinemates	Program and Office Administrator
Sarah Campbell	Part-time Financial Administrator
Nathan Wesselowski	Sexton
Deborah A. Block	Pastor Emerita
William H. Johnstone	Pastor Emeritus
Jean Dow	Associate Pastor Emerita
James C. Fisher	Parish Associate
Susan J. Stoll	Parish Associate
Sister Karlyn Cauley	Ecumenical Associate

This depiction of the women speaking with the angel at the tomb comes from the artist James He Qi, who studied at Nanjing University and Hamburg Art Institute, and is currently the artist-in-residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA).