

The shadows shift and fly.

The

whole

long

day

the air trembles,

thick with silence,

until, finally,

the footsteps are heard,

and the noise

of the voice of God

is upon us.

The Holy One

is not afraid

to walk

on unholy ground.

The Holy Work is done,

and the world awaits

the dawn of Life.

+

“Saturday Silence”

Ann Weems

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

THE FIRST SERVICE OF EASTER

March 30, 2024

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

Leader: Grace and peace from Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: And also with you.

* WORDS OF INTRODUCTION AND PRAYER

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.

Leader: The light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

* PROCESSION INTO THE SANCTUARY

Leader: The light of Christ

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

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

People: Thanks be to God.

* THE SCRIPTURES

John 1:1, 4-5

*+ 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.
Your 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)

*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 673 Jesus, Light of Joy

Lauda Anima

✠ The Service of Readings ✠

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

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

Genesis 1:1-2:4a, selections <i>the story of creation</i>	John Hansen (OT 1)
Psalms 105:23-43 <i>the story of deliverance</i>	Rick Brewer (OT 556)
Isaiah 55:1-11 <i>the promise of restoration</i>	Scott Silet (OT 685)
Ezekiel 36:24-28 <i>the promise of a new heart and spirit</i>	Lindsey McKee (OT 805)
Romans 6:3-11 <i>the promise of new life in Christ</i>	Susan Stoll (NT 156)
John 20:1-18 <i>the good news of resurrection</i>	Jean Dow (NT 33)

* HYMN (*inside back cover*) Rejoice (This Is the Night) *Valet Will Ich Dir Geben*

✠ REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT ✠

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

* 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

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. By Your Holy Spirit renew us, that we might be empowered to do Your will and continue in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.

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

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

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: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give You thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.

People: At Your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets.

Leader: Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth and set us among all Your creatures to love and serve You.

People: When we were unfaithful to You, You kept faith with us; Your love remained steadfast.

Leader: When we were slaves in Egypt, You broke the bonds of our oppression, brought us through the sea to freedom, and made covenant to be our God.

People: By a pillar of fire You led us through the desert to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us a way of life.

Leader: You spoke of love and justice in the prophets, and in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, You lived among us, revealing Your glory.

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

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

SOLO *My Lord! What a Morning* *African-American spiritual*
My Lord! what a morning, O, my Lord! what a morning, When the stars begin to fall.
You will hear the trumpet sound ... You will hear the sinner cry ... You will hear the
Christian shout... To wake the nations underground, Looking to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall.

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord in the power of the resurrection.

People: Amen.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

* HYMN 240 *Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks* *Alleluia No. 1*

POSTLUDE *Christ lag in Todesbanden* *Bach*

All are invited to remain for refreshments in the Parlor.

673

Jesus, Light of Joy

1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did
 2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning
 3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,

glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,
 has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,
 God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,

heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,
 bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,
 sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.
 al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.
 al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.

We Know That Christ Is Raised 485

Capo 3: (D)

(Asus) (A)

(A/G)

(D/F#)

F

Csus C

C/B \flat

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

B \flat

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

(Em)

(D) (Asus) (A)

(Em)

(D)

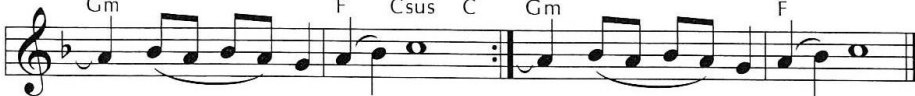
Gm

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

ENGELBERG

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 -

Fine

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.

TEXT: Donald Fishel, 1971

MUSIC: Donald Fishel, 1971; arr. Betty Pulkingham and Donald Fishel, 1979

Text and Music © 1973 International Liturgy Publications

ALLELUIA NO. 1

8.8 with refrain

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

The poem on the bulletin cover, by Ann Weems, was published in her book, *Kneeling in Jerusalem* (© 1992). Used with permission.

Offering plates are on the Narthex tables for your *One Great Hour of Sharing* gifts. This offering, a tradition at Lent and Easter, funds hunger programs, self-development of people projects around the world, and disaster relief services. We will dedicate the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering on Sunday, April 7.

WORSHIP WITH US TOMORROW MORNING

Easter Sunday

9:45 Organ and Timpani Prelude Concert

Steven Jensen and Mike Lorenz

10:00 Worship

Mr. Ater and Ms. Larson preaching "*Unfinished Business*"

Thompson Alleluia + Widor Festival Alleluia + Rusch Easter Symphony

11:15 Formal coffee hour in the Parlor

If you are "visiting" Immanuel Church today, we welcome you to Milwaukee's first church, marking its **187th anniversary** in April. Today's congregation of over 500 members comes from next door, neighborhoods throughout the city, and as far north as Port Washington, as far south as Kenosha, and as far west as Summit. **Our livestream worship services now extend our community across the country.** Committed to "keeping faith in the city," Immanuel supports the Interchange Food Pantry and is active with Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity and Southeastern Wisconsin Common Ground. Global mission projects reach to Zambia and Cuba. Worship is our first priority and education is emphasized for all ages. **Contact Associate Pastor Rob Ater** (robertater@immanuelwi.org) for more information about Immanuel or church membership.

Thank you to this evening's volunteers: Coffee Hour hosts – Justin Mayer, Bob Schweers, and Victor Plantinga; Ushers – Steve Jacobs, Linda and Tom Neubauer, and Mark Connelly; Camera operator – Jim Peterson.

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

414.276.4757 www.immanuelwi.org

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

Saturday, March 30, 2024