

# Zion Lutheran Church

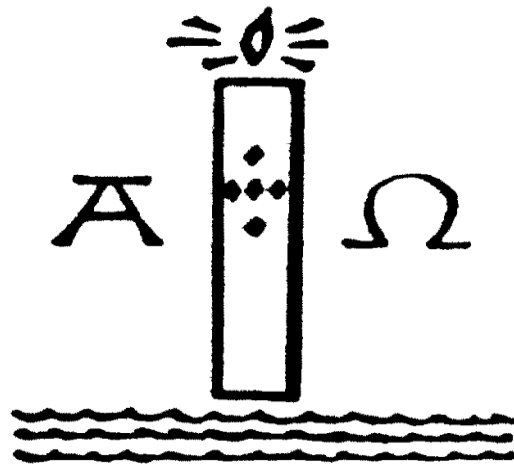
Mascoutah, Illinois

April 8, 2023

## *Easter Vigil*

### WELCOME

*In the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord, we bid you a warm welcome to our worship service. May your experience of worship and fellowship with us be spiritually refreshing and ready you for the week ahead.*



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**Church Secretary: Robin Phillips**

**Choir Director Team: Josh and Nancy Peterson**

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**Find us at @ZionMascoutah on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram**

## **AN EXPLANATION OF THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER ITS HISTORY AND ITS MEANING**

*A vigil is a service of Scripture and prayer for the purpose of waiting and watching. The vigil is longer than most services, and this style of service encourages all Christians to practice patience when waiting upon the will of God, which always is revealed only in His good time.*

*The “Great Vigil of Easter” is one of the oldest and most beautiful liturgies of the church. References to the vigil begin as early as the Third Century A.D., and have their roots in ceremonies much more ancient than that. As we celebrate the great Vigil of Easter here tonight, we are standing in a LONG line of our ancestors in the Christian faith who have likewise celebrated before us.*

*This powerful liturgy draws on many of the great contrasts of our world, including darkness and light, death and life, chaos and order, slavery and freedom. In every contrast, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is shown as the “cross-over” point. The Resurrection of Christ brings us out of darkness, into light. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ brings us out of death, into life. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ brings order out of chaos. The Resurrection of Christ brings us out of slavery to sin, and into freedom.*

*The Great Vigil of Easter does a masterful job of drawing together Old Testament prophecies and expectations of the coming Messiah and the glorious fulfillment of these Old Testament promises in the death and resurrection of Jesus. A series of lengthy readings from the Old Testament focus our attention on the glorious salvation deeds and promises given to the ancient Patriarchs, our forefathers in faith. In the celebration of the Resurrection, we see how all these hopes and promises find their ultimate meaning in Jesus.*

*Throughout this service, you will notice a strong emphasis on Baptism. As early as 313 A.D., the Great Vigil of Easter was the preferred time for the Baptism of adults who had been catechized during Lent. In this wonderful service, we are reminded that we are joined with Christ by Baptism into His death, and just as He has been raised, we also are raised with Him to new life. Take this opportunity to recall the amazing gift of washing and regeneration that was poured out on you at Baptism.*

*Another strong emphasis in the Vigil is the victory of the Light of the World over darkness. By 400 A.D., churches in Africa and Italy observed a solemn celebration of light during the Vigil. Candles, which have been extinguished in the church since Maundy Thursday, are lit once again. As the service begins, a newly kindled fire is blazing just outside. Just as life was newly kindled in the risen body of Jesus, so the newly kindled fire is used to light the Paschal Candle, the large decorated candle used in procession during the service. As life returned to Christ, so light returns to the Paschal Candle, which becomes a symbol of Christ among us. Light then spreads from that Paschal Candle to individual candles, just as new life spreads from the risen Christ to each of us. Slowly, light brightens the darkened sanctuary. Then, at the proclamation of our Lord’s Resurrection, the sanctuary is flooded with light.*

*Finally, the Great Vigil of Easter concludes with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. In this meal, we are given to eat and drink the very flesh and blood of Jesus, crucified and risen for us. We join in the meal of eternity, and eagerly await the fulfillment of our resurrection to join Christ forever at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.*

*This is the holy night when God’s people, enlightened by the true Light, set free from slavery by the Conqueror and raised from death by the Life of the world, gather with unrestrained joy to join with all saints, angels, archangels, and the whole company of heaven in proclaiming the triumph of God.*

## **Service of Light**

### **Paschal Candle Ceremony**

**P** Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which Our Lord Jesus passed over from death into life, we are gathered here in vigil and in prayer. 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, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*The cross is traced on the Paschal Candle.*

**P** Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

*The Greek letters Alpha and Omega are traced on the Paschal Candle.*

**P** the Alpha and the Omega.

*The year is traced on the Paschal Candle.*

**P** His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

*Five nails are placed into the Paschal Candle, reminding us of the five major wounds Christ received on the cross.*

**P** By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

*The Paschal Candle is lit.*

*(We remember how often God has chosen fire to symbolize His presence: leading Israel from slavery, fire consuming Elijah's sacrifice, tongues of fire at the Day of Pentecost, and others.)*

**P** May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

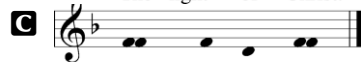
**C** Amen.

*Stand*

*The bearer of the Paschal Candle stops at the entrance to the nave.*



The light of Christ.

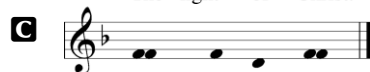


Thanks be to God.

*The bearer of the Paschal Candle stops at the middle of the nave.*




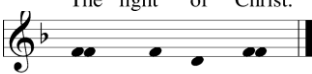
The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

*The bearer of the Paschal Candle lifts the paschal candle high. Remain Standing.*

**P**   
The light of Christ.

**C**   
Thanks be to God.

*The Paschal Candle is carried to the baptismal font and placed in its stand.*

### Exsultet

**P** Rejoice now, all you heav'nly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

  
The Lord be with you.

**C**   
And with thy spir - it.

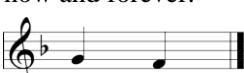
**P**   
Lift up your hearts.

**C**   
We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P**   
Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

**C**   
It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood. This is the night when You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**   
A - men.

Sit

## Service of Readings

**P** In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

### The Creation

*Genesis 1:1 —2:3*

*After the reading:*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for meditation*

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### The Testing of Abraham

*Genesis 22:1–18*

*After the reading:*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for meditation*

**P** Let us pray.

O God, since You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### The Passover

*Exodus 12:1-32*

*After the reading:*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for meditation*

**P** Let us pray.

Lord of life and death, at the Passover Your people were marked with the blood of the Passover Lamb sacrificed in their place, so that as the Angel of Death brought destruction to the unbelieving Your people were spared. As we, Your people, have been marked with the blood of Christ our Passover Lamb without spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, so cause the destruction of eternal death to pass over us and bring us to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

*Exodus 14:10—15:1*

*After the reading:*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for meditation*

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## Service of Holy Baptismal Remembrance

*(Easter was traditionally the time for Holy Baptism in the Church. St. Paul connects our baptism with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This evening, we remember our own baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. In baptism we see the personal power of Easter: We are raised with Christ and share in His triumph over the powers of sin, death, darkness, and the devil.)*

**P** On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**P** Do you renounce the devil? If so, respond, "Yes, I renounce him."

**C Yes, I renounce him.**

**P** Do you renounce all his works? If so, respond, "Yes, I renounce them."

**C Yes, I renounce them.**

**P** Do you renounce all his ways? If so, respond, "Yes, I renounce them."

**C Yes, I renounce them.**

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

**C Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

**C Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand**

of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C** Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting.

### Rite of Baptismal Remembrance

*Being submerged in the waters of baptism represents a kind of death; emerging from the waters of baptism represents new life, hence the Paschal Candle is lowered into the water of the Baptismal Font and raised again.*

**P** May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life.

*The Paschal Candle is placed back in its stand.*

**P** Dear friends, through the paschal mystery we are buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with Him to new life. As we remember that Jesus has crossed over from death to life, let us now remember the promises God made to us in our baptism. In the Exodus, our spiritual forefathers crossed over from death in Egypt to life in the Promised Land by crossing through the waters of the Red Sea. At the cross and empty tomb, Jesus crossed over from death to life eternal as water flowed from His pierced side. We remember that we also cross over from death to life as we pass through the waters of baptism, dying with Christ and likewise rising with Him. In baptism, death is destroyed and life begins anew.

**P** I now ask you, dear friends, is it your earnest purpose to continue steadfast in faith and in the promise of your baptism, and as a member of the Church to be diligent in the use of the means of grace and prayer? If so respond, "Yes, with the help of God."

**C** Yes, with the help of God.

**P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

**C** Amen.

**P** Peace ✠ be with you.

**C** Amen.

## Service of Prayer

### Litany of the Resurrection

*The response to each petition is "have mercy on us."*

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, hear us. O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** By Your glorious resurrection from the dead, good Lord, deliver us. O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** By Your victory over sin and death, good Lord, deliver us.

O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** By the majesty of Your risen body, good Lord, deliver us.

O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** We poor sinners implore You to hear us, good Lord. O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness, grant us, good Lord. O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been served by You, grant us, good Lord. O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints, grant us, good Lord. O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy on us. Amen.



# Service of the Word

Stand

## Easter Acclamation

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

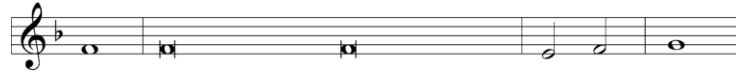
**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*The lights in the church are turned on, the altar candles are lit from the Paschal Candle, and the bells are rung to announce and celebrate Jesus' resurrection and victory over sin, death, and the devil.*

## Gloria in Excelsis (Setting Three)



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



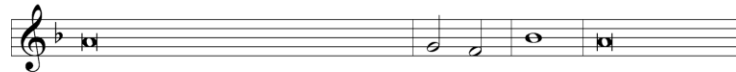
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



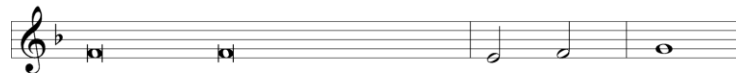
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Holy Gospel

*John 20:1-18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.



**C** Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So 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." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They 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." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for 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.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that He had said these things to her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*Sit*

Hymn

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

LSB 487

- 1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness,  
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,  
Led them with unmoistened foot Through the Red Sea waters.
- 2 'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst His prison  
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has risen;  
All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying  
From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise undying.

- 3 Now the queen of seasons, bright With the day of splendor,  
With the royal feast of feasts Comes its joy to render;  
Comes to gladden faithful hearts Which with true affection  
Welcome in unwearied strain Jesus' resurrection!
- 4 For today among His own Christ appeared, bestowing  
His deep peace, which evermore Passes human knowing.  
Neither could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark portal  
Nor the watchers nor the seal Hold Him as a mortal.
- 5 Alleluia! Now we cry To our King immortal,  
Who, triumphant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark portal.  
Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness!

Public domain

Sermon

“Mary”

## Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

### Preface

LSB p. 194

The Lord be with you.

☩ And with thy spir - it.

☩ Lift up your hearts.

☩ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

☩ Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

☩ It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus**

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,  
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer**

**P** 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.

**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

**The Words of Our Lord**

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

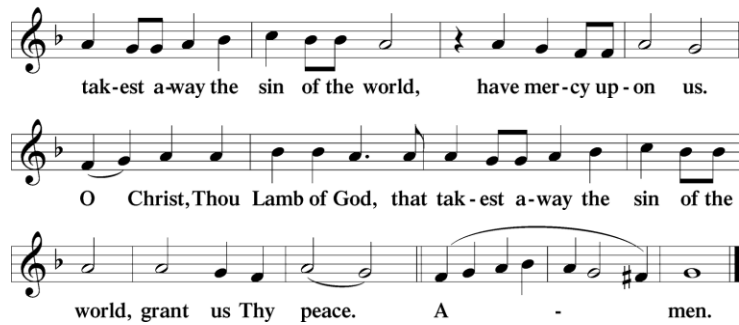
**Pax Domini**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** A - men.

**Agnus Dei**

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the  
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*

**Distribution**

*During the Distribution, the camera will be focused on the cross at the front of Zion to allow for privacy for those who commune.*

*Zion Lutheran practices the policy of closed communion, communing only those who share our common Biblical view of the Lord's Supper. If you are not a confirmed LCMS Lutheran, please confer with the pastor before communing.*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.  
**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.  
**Amen.**

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**The Dismissal**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.  
**C Amen.**

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB p. 199*



**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de-part in peace ac-cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre-pared be-fore the face of all people, a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

### Thanksgiving

LSB 200

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**B** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray. O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

### Salutation

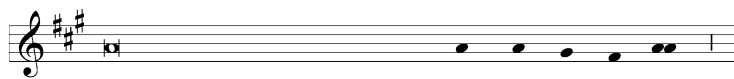
**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.

### Benedicamus

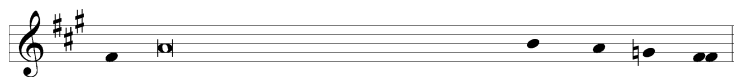
**A** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

*Remain Standing*

## Closing Hymn

## The Day of Resurrection

LSB 478

- 1 The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,  
The passover of gladness, The passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,  
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.**
- 2 Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light  
And, list'ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.**
- 3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,  
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!**
- 4 All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,  
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!  
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne  
And honor, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!**

Public domain

## Postlude

*(An offering plate is in the Narthex. You may place your offering in it on the way out. Thank you.)*

### Acknowledgments

Vigil of Easter from Lutheran Service Book

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## LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION



### EASTER VIGIL SERVICE

Once again, this year, Zion will be hosting an Easter Vigil Service, sometimes called the “Great Vigil of Easter” on Saturday, April 8th, at 7:00 PM. It is at the same time both the last service of Lent and the first service of Easter (it switches in the middle of the service)! This is one of the most meaningful, most powerful, and most dramatic services of the whole year. The service starts in the dark with lights out (the Lenten part), the Paschal Candle is lit from a (small, carefully controlled) fire in a fire-pit outside symbolizing Jesus’ new life, and then after a series of readings, all the lights are turned on, the announcement is made, “Christ is risen!” and the Easter party starts. It really is a great service, and one that is very meaningful, also for children who really notice the dramatic changes and enjoy the different feel to the service. The service will start at 7:00 PM on Saturday, April 8th, and probably last till about 8:30 PM. Of course, Holy Week is extremely busy, but you are encouraged to add this service to your schedule.

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

During Holy Week the Church remembers the greatest outpouring of God's love and grace as we walk with Jesus through the events leading up to His crucifixion, and then celebrate His glorious resurrection. Here is a schedule of services for the coming week. Please make plans to attend each service to receive God's outpouring of grace and blessings in the Word and Sacraments.

Thursday, April 6—Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 PM

Friday, April 7—Good Friday Service, 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 8—Great Vigil of Easter, 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 9—Easter Sunday Divine Service, 10:00 AM

We look forward to seeing you at Zion!

### EASTER BREAKFAST SERVED BY MEN'S CLUB

Zion's Men's Club will serve an Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 9 from 8:00-8:45 AM. The meal will be held in the gym. The menu will include eggs, sausage, pancakes, and more. Come enjoy this meal, and this time of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Zion. (Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Adult Bible Class will continue to meet at their regularly scheduled times on Easter Sunday, so come to breakfast early to make it to class on time.)

### PASTOR SEDWICK'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Sedwick has started his Sill Bridge program at Zion. He is retiring from active-duty Chaplaincy, and before receiving a Divine Call to serve as a parish pastor, he will be at Zion from now until early August. He will not be able to join us for Sunday Bible Classes and Worship until July, due to other preaching commitments across the Southern Illinois District, but he will be easing back into parish ministry through the week at Zion. Pastor Sedwick's email is [john.m.sedwick@gmail.com](mailto:john.m.sedwick@gmail.com) and his cell phone number is 618-767-4682, in case you need to contact him.

### SAMARITAN'S PURSE FUNDRAISER CONCLUDES

The Youth Group would like to thank everyone who helped reach the \$1538 mark! That \$1538 is headed to Samaritan's Purse because of your efforts. The youth would also like to thank the donor who matched the funds for the Youth Group. Many blessings all the way around!

### THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

The concert by the Chamber Orchestra from Concordia Chicago, held at Zion Lutheran, Mascoutah on March 26, was a huge success in every way! Thank you to all who attended, and a special thank you to all who helped to make this event such an incredible blessing! Over 180 people attended to enjoy the concert. The Ladies Aid provided a wonderful meal for the orchestra members and host families after the concert. The host families had a delightful evening with their students. We significantly exceeded our financial goal to support the ongoing work of the Chamber Orchestra. Thank you to everyone, especially to all those who made special financial



contributions for this concert, to the Ladies' Aid for providing and serving the meal, and to the host families for welcoming these students in to your homes. It was a wonderful event!

### **LAST CHANCE TO DONATE FOR EARTHQUAKE RELIEF**

For the last month we have been collecting funds to help with earthquake relief in Syria, coordinated by Arabic Lutheran Ministries. Despite the dangerous circumstances, Arabic Lutheran Ministries has been able to open a center for the displaced families through a church in Aleppo, where more than 300 families are staying. The immediate need for these families is food, clothing, and various personal supplies. More teams of volunteers are being sent to reach other devastated Syrian cities such as Latakia, Tartus and Jableh, to start centers to shelter families and help with their basic needs. If you would like to donate to this relief effort, place your contributions in the jars at the back of the sanctuary. Easter Sunday will be the last day the donation jars are out, so please make your contributions today.

### **CONFIRMATION QUESTIONING INVITATION**

This year the Confirmation Questioning will not take place during the Bible Class hour before Confirmation. Instead, it will be held on Saturday, April 15 at 4:00 in Zion's sanctuary. Members are welcome to come, be refreshed in their own confirmation, and support our youth who are being confirmed this year. All are invited.

### **YOUTH CONFIRMATION APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Zion will rejoice in celebrating Youth Confirmation Sunday on April 23, 2023, during the 10:00 AM Divine Service. We have four youth being confirmed this year: Daniel Bretz, Michael Ganey, Tyler Hinton, and Luke Lara. We look forward to welcoming these dedicated, faithful youth into full communicant membership in the congregation.

### **MISSION SUNDAY AT ZION ON APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**

Come celebrate Mission Sunday! At the SID Convention a year ago, the District entered into a mission partnership with the Seminario Concordia El Reformador (Concordia the Reformer Seminary) in the Dominican Republic. As a part of this mission partnership, the SID is hoping to send significant financial contributions to assist with the work of training pastors to serve across Central America and South America. At the Mission Sunday, we will have members of a mission team from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis who visited the DR in January with us at Zion, to hear a bit about their experiences there. We will join together for a Central American-themed meal in the gym after the service. (Two different offerings will be collected...one to cover the food costs for the meal, and one to go directly to the work of the Seminary in the Dominican Republic.) Mark your calendars now for Mission Sunday on April 30, including the meal after the service.

### **RISEN CHRIST HYMN FESTIVAL ON MAY 7<sup>th</sup>**

On Sunday, May 7, at 3:00 in the afternoon, Zion Lutheran in Mascoutah will be hosting a "Risen Christ Hymn Festival." This hymn festival is the book-end to the "Christ Triumphant Hymn Festival" held at Zion Lutheran in Belleville in November of 2022. We will be singing many of the great hymns of the Easter season, including "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia," "At the Lamb's High Feast," "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen," "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds," and "Abide with Me." Between the hymns, we will hear commentaries from Dr. Jon Vieker, the Dean of the Chapel at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, who previously was an assistant to LCMS President Matthew Harrison and a leader of the LCMS Commission on Worship. Come sing our joy found in Christ's resurrection!

**THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY, EASTER VIGIL SATURDAY, APRIL 8**

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton  
Lectors: Rev. John Sedwick & Rev. Karl Gregory  
Organist: Nancy Peterson  
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton  
Acolyte: Matthew Clayton  
Altar Guild: Lita Timmerman  
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

**THOSE WHO SERVE EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9**

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton  
Lector: Matthew Clayton  
Organist: Nancy Peterson  
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton  
Acolytes: Dalton Wambold, Chloe Pannier, & Isaiah Clayton (crucifer)  
Altar Guild: Jenny Kneschke & Jordan Rehfeldt  
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

**THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION**

Sat.	Easter Vigil Service w/communion	7:00 PM
Sun.	<b><i>Easter Sunday</i></b>	
	Easter Breakfast	8:00 AM
	Confirmation Class	8:30 AM
	Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Sunday School & Youth Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Worship DS II w/communion	10:00 AM