

Zion Lutheran Church

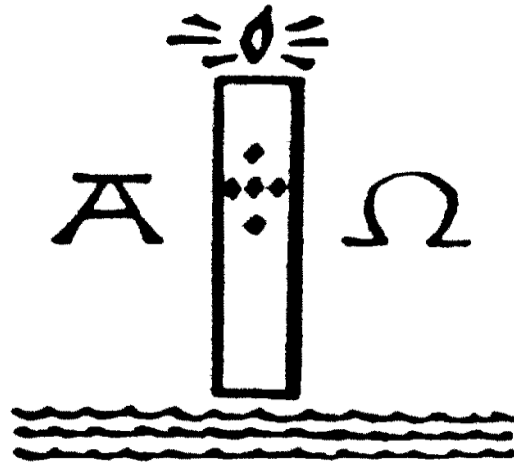
Mascoutah, Illinois

March 30, 2024

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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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.

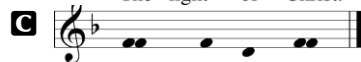
Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light, even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

C Amen.

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



The light of Christ.

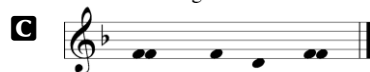


Thanks be to God.

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.

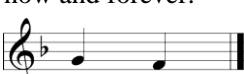
P 
Lift up your hearts.

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:

L 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 Flood

Genesis 7:1–5; 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

After the reading:

P This is the Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for meditation

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and perverse generation, and yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ's body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The Testing of Abraham

Genesis 22:1–18

After the reading:

L 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.**

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!

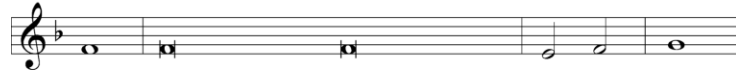
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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,



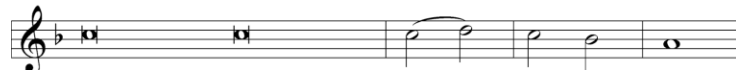
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



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.



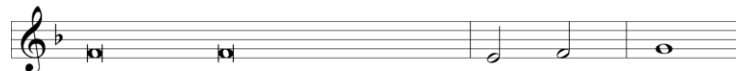
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



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

Matthew 28:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th chapter.



C Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

There You Will See Him

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

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.

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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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.

A - men.

Agnus Dei

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 ✠ 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,
 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.

A - men.

Salutation

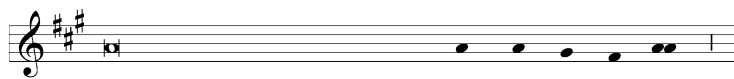
P The Lord be with you.
 A And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

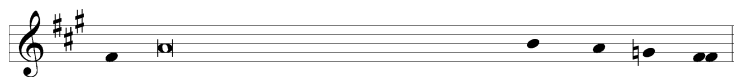
A Bless we the Lord.
 A Thanks be to God.

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!**

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Postlude

Jubilation

Jason Payne

(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, March 30th, 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, March 30th, and probably last until about 8:30 PM. Of course, Holy Week is extremely busy, but you are encouraged to add this service to your schedule.

CHALICE AND CIBORIUM USED TONIGHT

While on his recent trip to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan, Pastor Clayton purchased several chalices, one of carved olive wood and several of stone. The olive wood set was used for Communion distribution on Maundy Thursday and will be used again on Easter morning. The ciborium (the cup used to distribute the body of our Lord) and the chalice (the cup used to distribute the blood of our Lord) used during the Easter Vigil service this evening will be stone vessels carved at Mount Nebo in Jordan.

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.

Saturday, March 30—Great Vigil of Easter, 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 31—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, March 31 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.)

HYMN FESTIVAL APRIL 14th AT ZION LUTHERAN, MASCOUTAH

This year, 2024, is the 500th Anniversary of the publication of the first Lutheran hymnal, Etlich Cristlich lider, (also often called the Achtliederbuch) which was published in Wittenberg early in 1524. In honor of this anniversary, Zion Lutheran Church in Mascoutah, IL will be hosting a Hymn Festival on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 4:00 PM. The Hymn Festival will feature several hymns first published in this earliest Lutheran hymnal, as well as more recent Lutheran contributions to hymnody. Each hymn will be preceded by a commentary given by an area LCMS pastor to give the background and meaning of the hymn. The Hymn Festival is free and open to all. Come and join in the great Lutheran tradition of singing hymns together at Zion Mascoutah at 4:00 PM on Sunday, April 14th!

THOSE WHO SERVE EASTER VIGIL SATURDAY, MARCH 30

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Lector: Rev. Karl Gregory
Lector: Sem. Rob Laird
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Abigail Clayton
Acolytes: Lucy Laird, Stella Laird, & Samuel Clayton (crucifer)
Altar Guild: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Elder of the Month: Geoff Phillips

THOSE WHO SERVE EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Liturgist: Sem. Rob Laird
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Blake Twenhafel
Acolytes: William Huth, Rylan Ganey, & Brady Twenhafel (crucifer)
Altar Guild: Mary Kay Krausz & Lita Timmerman
Elder of the Month: Geoff Phillips

THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION

Sat.	Great Vigil of Easter	7:00 PM
Sun.	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	
	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 IV w/communion	10:00 AM