



The Great Vigil of Easter and the Feast of the Risen Christ

April 8, 2023

8:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market St., Williamsport, PA

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*This holy night is the most solemn festival in the entire year,
since it deals with the central mystery of our redemption ~
Christ's saving death and his glorious resurrection.*

Lightface print is read by the leader. **Boldface print is read by the congregation.**

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The first part of the Vigil centers on fire and light, the visible symbol of Christ, who proclaimed himself "The Light of the World". On Easter morning Christ arose, resplendent as the dawning sun, thereby conquering death forever. With this thought in mind we assist at the lighting of the Easter Candle, the carrying and distribution of this burning candle through the church, and the Easter Announcement, "Rejoice now...". We anticipate our joyful sharing of Christ's triumph in resurrection.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

The second part of the Vigil has as its center the mystery of Baptism, by which the light of Christ was first given to each of us. Through Holy Baptism we died to sin to rise with Christ - going down into the font in death in order to come up cleansed from sin and alive to God. The readings show this transformation by recounting Old Testament events that foreshadowed it. The blessing of the baptismal water leads up to renewal of the resolve of the whole congregation to live with the Baptismal promise of the Risen Christ. Then the Litany is prayed, as we ask God to help us keep our baptismal vows.

THE FIRST COMMUNION OF EASTER

*With the grand ringing of bells, the chancel becomes a proper setting for Easter joy. We have reached the climax of the Easter Vigil-the **feast of the risen Christ**. As baptized members of Christ's Body, we share the feast of Christ's presence and then leave the church to go and tell the Good News.*

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Stand and turn to the entrance

***Gathering**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter Festival that, burning with desire for life with you, they may be found ready to take part in that festival of light which has no end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May the darkness of our hearts and minds be dispelled by the light of the Christ who rises this night in glory.

Amen.

O God, bless this lighted candle and those upon whom it may shine, that all who this night shall take part in your holy Mysteries may be filled with your blessing; that as we were once in darkness but are now in the light of the Lord, we may walk as children of light.

Amen.

Individuals' candles are lit from the paschal candle

***The Procession (Sung)**

The Light of Christ

Thanks be to God.

The congregation moves toward the nave arriving at the door to the nave.

The Light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation follows into the church.

The Light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

***The Easter Announcement-The Exsultet**

Rejoice now, O countless host of angels in heaven. Sound forth, O trumpet of salvation, for the triumph of the King. Rejoice, O earth, in the radiance of the light poured upon you, and, illumined by the brightness of the Everlasting King, know that the darkness of old has been banished forever. Rejoice, O Church, clothed in the brightness of this light, and let this house resound with the praises of God's people.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

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

Amen.

Candles are extinguished and the congregation sits.

A Reading from Genesis: Genesis 1:1- 2:4 (*God creates all things good*)

Hymn LBW, "Green", 463 Stanzas 1 and 3

Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of him who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

A Reading from Exodus: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 (*Deliverance at the Red Sea*)

Hymn LBW, "Green", 132 Stanzas 1 and 2

Let us pray. O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism. Grant that all the people of earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham and may rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Reading from Isaiah: Isaiah 55:1-11 (*Salvation freely offered to all*)

Hymn LBW, "Green", 343 Stanzas 1 and 2

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

Amen.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

(At the Font)

It is truly right and proper that we should at all times and places give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God.

- You make the Sacraments effective in a wonderful way;

(The Pastor touches the water.)

- Your Spirit in the beginning moved over the face of the waters and even now brings about a new creation in the font of rebirth;
- You fashion from our old nature an offspring of heaven;
- You have commanded your disciples to "Go, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

(The Pastor sprinkles water in the four directions.)

- You promise to be present with us so that this clear water may provide a cleansing of body and spirit.

(The Pastor divides the water in the shape of the cross.)

Let the power of the Holy Spirit come down and regenerate by water and word each time we baptize. In this font will every stain of sin be washed away, here begins new life through Christ our Lord.



All who be-lieve and are bap-tized shall
see the Lord's sal-va-tion; Bap-tized in-to the death of Christ We
are a new cre-a-tion. In Je-sus we will stand A-
mong the glor-i-ous heav'nly band. Raise us in grace each day to
fol-low in your way.

Family of God: On this most holy night, we recall God's saving actions and keep vigil in celebration of the joyful resurrection. The Apostle Paul says, "We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life."

Therefore we ask all the people:

Do you renounce the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

We renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into Heaven. And is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Do you, Richard D. Bates, Jr., promise to live in this faith and in the covenant of your Baptism, and as a member of the Church to be diligent in the use of the Means of Grace and in prayer?

I do so promise.

Faithful to God, do you promise to live in this faith and in the covenant of your Baptism, and as a member of the Church to be diligent in the use of the Means of Grace and in prayer?

We do so promise.

May the Almighty and Everlasting God, who has caused all of us to be reborn by Water and the Spirit, and has forgiven us all our sins, strengthen and preserve us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION After each petition:**

Risen Lord, in your mercy / Hear our prayer

***SHARING THE PEACE**

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

***THE LITANY** (*Sung using the same inflections as the leader.*)

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, hear us.

God, the Father in heaven,

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God, the Holy Spirit,

Be gracious to us,

From all sin, evil, and everlasting death,

By the mystery of your incarnation,

by your Passion and Resurrection,

by the gift of the Holy Spirit,

Though unworthy, we implore you,

To rule your Church, to guide all servants of your church,

To raise up those who fall, to comfort the faint-hearted,

To help all in danger and need,

to bring reconciliation in every family, **Hear us, good Lord.**

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, **Give us your peace. Amen.**

(We wait in silent anticipation.)

THE FIRST COMMUNION OF EASTER

(There are three loud knocks at the church door.)

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!** (*Three Times*)

(As the Hymn of Praise is sung, the congregation processes to their pews.)

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.
 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
 free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and
 strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.
 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the
 hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
 has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: stir up in your church that spirit of adoption which is given to us in Holy Baptism, that we, being wed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LESSON Romans 6:1-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But 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. 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.

*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*HOLY GOSPEL John 20:1-18

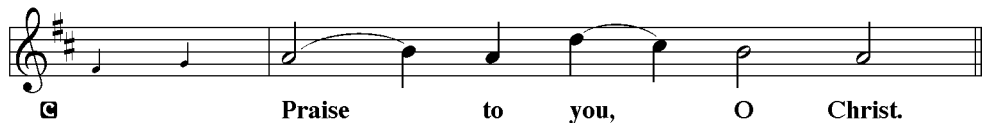
The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 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.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but

he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who 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 returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 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.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' 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 Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

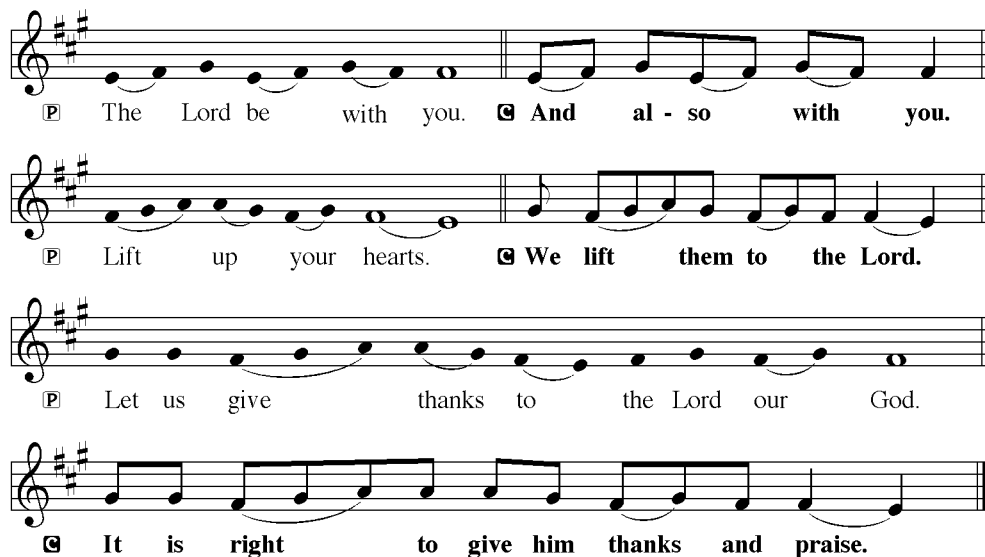
The Gospel of the Lord.



*SERMON



*GREAT THANKSGIVING



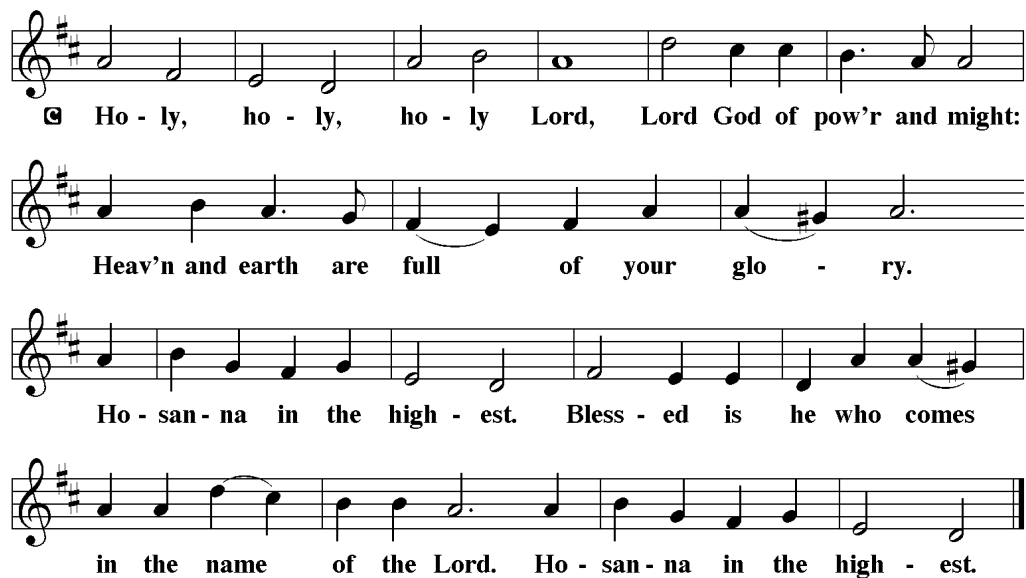
P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels, and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations and made for yourself a

chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you set your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Join our prayers with those of your saints of every time and place, and unite them with ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty
of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is
yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

*LAMB OF GOD



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



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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE LORD'S SUPPER All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.

EASTER MEMORIALS

**In Memory of Josephine and Allen Malick
In Memory of Julin and Philip Williams**
By Cheryl Williams

**In Memory of Ralph and Elda Zeigler
In Memory of Wayne and Betty Braden**
By Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler

***In Memory of Charles and Helen Clokey (my parents)
Thomas J. Schramm (my husband)***
By Helen Clokey Schramm

In Memory of Our Parents, Eugene and Reba Jacobs
By John and Holly Carlson and Linda Rosini

**In Honor of my Grandchildren, Ezra, Gillian, and Asher.
My Great-Granddaughter, Ren**
By Debra Buckman

**In Memory of Jim Buckman
My Parents, Dorsey and Mary Jane Ringler
Jim's Parents, Sydana and Davis Buckman**
By Debra Buckman



EASTER MEMORIALS

In Memory of Bob and Shirley Campbell

By Cathy Fenderson and Bob Campbell

In Honor of Chris and Dick Manny

By Roxie Larson

**In Memory of Pop and Mom Larson,
five brothers and four sisters**

By Roxie Larson

In Honor of Annika, Gabriella and Makensi

By Poppy and Gram Doebler

**In Memory of Wilson and Emily Doebler
and Jim and Jane Horner**

By Bud and Margie Doebler

**Donation to Local Hunger Fund
In Memory of my Aunt, Marion Dailey**

By Becky Miller Pryor

**In Honor of our Mothers
Ruth and Gloria**

**In Memory of our Fathers
Paul and Max**

By Gary and Shelby Weber

EASTER MEMORIALS

**In Memory of
Joann Zeigler**

**Leon and Rosena Haines
Ruth and Jack Burkholder**

Linda Kay Walter

By Dan and Diana Zeigler

**In Honor of
Grant and Lisa Rees**

In Memory of

John Rees

Ruth and Harry Ulmer

Gwyn Rees

By Ruth Rees

Donation to Local Hunger Fund

In Memory of Loved Ones

By Shaible Family

In Memory of

Bill and Prudy Poff

Jack and Eleanor Whiting

By Herb Poff and Steve and Candy Dewar

EASTER MEMORIALS

**In Memory of
Bill and Marion Waldeisen**

By Their Family

In Memory of Jack and Margaret Dewar

By Steve and Candy Dewar

In Memory of Harold and Joyce Hershberger

By Mike, Pam, Ryan, Katlin and Sean Jensen

In Memory of Harold and Joyce Hershberger.

We Love you and miss you. Jim and Sue Newcomer

Donation to Local Hunger Fund

In Memory of Don and Helen Ochs

By Michael Ochs

In Memory of

Anne G Miller (wife)

Countess Florence Miller (mother)

Clair E. Miller (father)

By Robert Miller

EASTER MEMORIALS

In Memory of
Robert D Clokey

By his wife Rosemary Clokey

Robert D. Clokey

By his son Robert C. Clokey and family

Robert D. Clokey

By his daughter Elizabeth Lewis and family

My Parents

By Rosemary Clokey

In Memory of
Charles and Helen Clokey

By Rosemary Clokey

Donation to Local Hunger Fund
In Memory of Forrest and Margaret Klinger

By Ron and Donna Baker

Donation to Local Hunger Fund
In Memory of Robert and Shirley Miller

By Barb and Ken Cooley

In Loving Memory of our Parents

By Ray and Cindy Huff

