

The Great Vigil of Easter

Joint Ecumenical Service

April 8, 2023, 7pm



This ecumenical service of the ancient Great Vigil of Easter is led by St. George's Episcopal Church, Lutheran Church of Cross, Faith Lutheran Church, and Bismarck United Church of Christ. Thank you for joining us tonight!

SERVICE OF FIRE

Let us pray. O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

EASTER PROCLAMATION AND PROCESSION OF PASCHAL CANDLE

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,
bright with a glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people.

Minister The Light of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People And al - so with you.

Deacon Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 land.

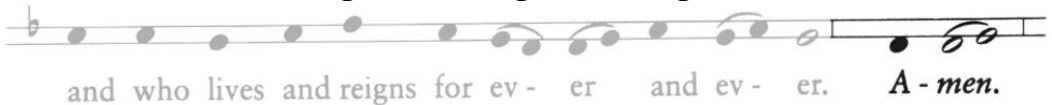
This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell,
and rose victorious from the grave.

Minister The Light of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this
candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all
darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting,
find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation,



Minister The Light of Christ!

People Thanks be to God!

PASCHAL CANDLE PROCESSION CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious Creator, in the joy of this night, receive our evening
song of praise, your church's sacred offering. Accept this Easter
Candle, a flame undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to your
honor, O God. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN AND PROCESSION

Christ, Be our Light

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Dear followers of Christ, as we watch and wait, let us listen to the word of God, as we know it best in the reading of scripture. These stories remind us that from the beginning of the Universe, God has been present – unfolding in creation, moving us toward freedom and justice; goodness and life. Let us now be seated and hear the stories of the amazing power of God!

FIRST READING *The Story of Creation* *Genesis 1:1-2:3*

SUNG RESPONSE *In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful*

SECOND READING *Crossing the Red Sea* *Exodus 13-15*

SUNG RESPONSE *In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful*

THIRD READING *The Valley of Dry Bones* *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

SUNG RESPONSE *In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful*

FOURTH READING *Mary at the Tomb* *Matthew 28:1-10*

SUNG RESPONSE

In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful

SERVICE OF WATER

At this time in the service, we invite all those baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ to renew their vows. Please rise in spirit or in body.

Do you wish to reaffirm your commitment to the faith and family of Jesus Christ and continue to grow as a child of God?

People: I do.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Will you seek to discern God's presence in your life and respond to God's beckoning call?

People: I will, with God's help.

Will you resist evil, stand up against injustice, and serve others?

People: I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace, among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Will you claim, celebrate and share your gifts with others and let God lead you to help make this world a better place?

People: I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

Now the Green Blade Riseth Hymnal #204

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Minister The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING

O Sons and Daughters

St. George's Choir

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

**Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Minister The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Minister Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin

Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Jesus ate with his friends many times. They would eat and talk, often asking questions and wondering about God. On their last night together, after their conversation at the table, Jesus took bread, he blessed and broke it, and shared it with his friends, saying, “Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and poured it out for his disciples, saying, “Take and drink of this cup. This is the cup of the new covenant. Do this in remembrance of me.”

We pray you, gracious God, to send the power of the Holy Spirit upon this bread and this cup that these gifts may be for us the Sacrament of your healing presence among us in a broken world. Feed us with your power; fill us with your peace, teach us how to love; lead us, reconciled and redeemed, into the world to work for the liberation and reconciliation of all Creation. Strengthen those whom we love, who suffer on this

day, including those whom we name now out loud or silently in our hearts.

Minister God in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Minister By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People **AMEN.**

Minister Let us pray the prayer taught to us by our brother Jesus.

People Our Creator 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMNS

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

Taizé

*Let us Break Bread Together
Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless*

*Hymnal #325
Hymnal #343*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray together.

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us with the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us home renewed by the Holy Spirit. May we be more fully your people in the world. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hymnal #657

SENDING FORTH

Minister Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People Alleluia! Christ is here tonight!

Minister Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

Minister Go with the hope that love and truth rises again this night. Go into this night knowing that the love and truth of Jesus Christ can never be

extinguished. Alleluia, alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* *Llanfair*
arr. Robert Williams

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Steve Sathre, Deacon Beth Lipp, Deacon Ed Wos, David Martin, Traci Juhala, Arlene Gray, Tom Tudor, Tom Hopkins, Pastor Lisa Ahlness, Esther Anderson, Pastor Gretchen Deeg, Pastor Sylvia Bull, Pastor Derek Harkins, Norbert Mayer, Deb Diede, Matthew Nygard