



I was glad when they said to me,
LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!



THIRD DAY OF TRIDUUM

**Easter Vigil
April 4, 2026**

A Word of Christian Welcome

St. Paul's is "Growing together as God's family!"

What does this mean? It means that we are growing, not only in numbers, but in faith toward God. It means that we are more than a bunch of individuals, but that we are a heavenly family brought together under Christ and making the bold confession of faith to the world.

We are therefore delighted that you have joined us today to hear and receive the blessings of the Word of God in the Divine Service where God comes to us by the means of grace to give us mercy, forgiveness, and His Spirit. The Lutheran liturgy might be hard for first-time visitors to our church or to the historic Lutheran church, but don't worry! We are here to help you so that you can take part in the liturgy and hymns without reservation or fear.

The Lord's Supper will most likely be served today. This is also called Holy Communion. We follow our Lord's instructions alone here, and not the opinions of men. Please be sure to read The Lord's Supper statement on the previous page. Visitors, if you did not have a chance to speak to the pastor prior to the service, please take no offence if the pastor does not serve you should you come up to the rail. He will certainly offer a blessing and prayer over you. You should speak to him as quickly as possible after the service.

Regarding children, we LOVE when children attend the service and hope your children participate in the singing and reading of Scripture. If they're a little noisy, it's okay and they're welcome to stay. If you wish, you may take them to the Cry Room at the back of the sanctuary, or to the Nursery room, provided they are supervised. You may also provide them with a children's bag and bulletin, found just outside the sanctuary on the left.

Finally, all are welcome to fellowship after the service to drink some coffee and eat some delicious breakfast treats. Bible Study and Sunday School follow at 10:30.

Vigil Instructions

We start outside around the fire. You will receive an unlit candle. The liturgy of the Paschal Candle will commence and once all candles are lit, we will process into the dark and quiet church. Tonight we will hear a series of readings from Holy Scripture which proclaim our Lord's mercy and salvation throughout the ages. Afterward, the sanctuary will be adorned with Easter banners and colors, the lights will be turned to full and, just as our Lord rose from the dead in the early hours of the 3rd Day, we will proclaim His resurrection by returning the Alleluias to our worship.

We gather outside under the canopy around the fire.

Service of Light

Invitation

Collect

- 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.

Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, he says:

Blessing of the Paschal Candle

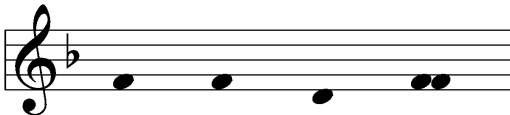
Collect

- 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.

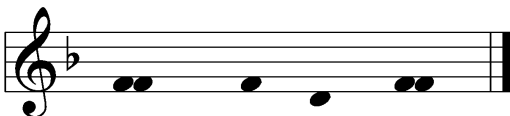
All light their candles from the paschal candle and then follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church.

At the entrance of the nave, the bearer of the paschal candle stops and chants:

Lux Christi



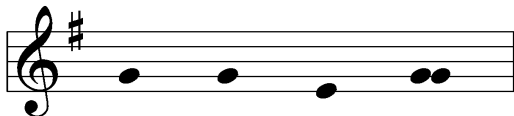
A The light of Christ.



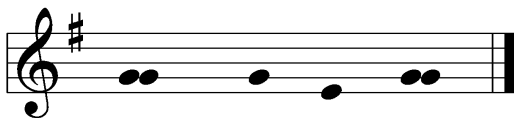
C Thanks be to God.

When the candle bearer reaches the middle of the nave, he chants for the second time:

Lux Christi



A The light of Christ.

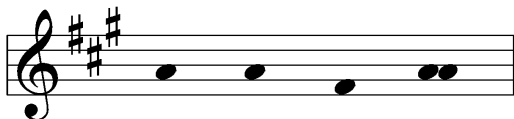


C Thanks be to God.

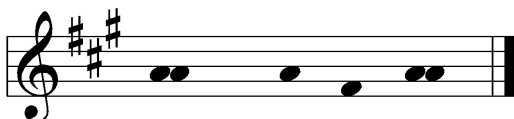
When the candle bearer arrives at the candle stand, he turns to face the congregation.

After all have reached their places, the candle bearer lifts the candle high and chants the third time:

Lux Christi



A The light of Christ.

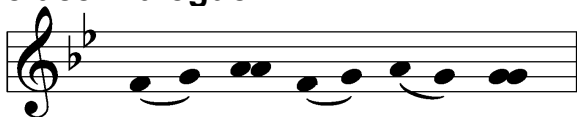


C Thanks be to God.

After the candle bearer places the paschal candle in its stand, the pastor turns to face the people and chants or speaks the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet).

Exsultet

Preface Dialogue



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.

Easter Proclamation

All may extinguish their candles at this time. The paschal candle remains lighted throughout the service. A few lights in the nave may be turned on.

Service of Readings

Introduction to 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.

After each reading, you will be asked to stand as the Collect for the Reading is prayed. You will then ask to be seated.

The Creation

Genesis 1:1—2:3

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10—15:1

Salvation Offered Freely to All

Isaiah 55:1-11

A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Job Confesses the Redeemer

Job 19:20-27

Jonah Preaches to Nineveh

Jonah 3:1-10

Vigil Hymn

930 All You Works of God, Bless the Lord



1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
2 Sing, you sun and you moon a - bove,
3 Frost of win - ter with song so cold,
4 Hills and moun - tains, now sing His worth,



All you an - gels, now bless the Lord;
Stars of heav - en, now sing His love;
Dews of sum - mer, your song un - fold;
All you green things that grow on earth;



Come, you heav - ens and pow'rs that be,
Dew and show - ers, you winds that blow,
Light and dark - ness, you day and night,
Seas and riv - ers, you springs and wells,



Praise the Lord and His maj - es - ty:
Heat and fire, you ice and snow:
Clouds of thun - der, you light - nings bright:
Beasts and cat - tle, you birds and whales:

Refrain

Raise your voice - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,
All you works of God, bless the Lord!
Raise your voice - es high, praise and mag - ni - fy,
All you works of God, bless the Lord!

5 Come, humanity, sing along, Sing, you people of God, a song;
Priests and servants, your Lord now bless, Join, you spirits and souls at rest: Refrain

△ 6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart; All you humble, His praise impart;
God the Father and Son adore, Bless the Spirit forevermore! Refrain

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: Jamaican, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-80
Text: © 1995 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003013
Tune: © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003013

Service of Holy Baptism

The Service of Holy Baptism is done as a reminder of our baptisms where God claimed us as His children. This portion of the Vigil is in the Narthex. You are welcome to turn and watch or simply listen and read the responses from the screen or your bulletin. We have no baptisms this evening.

Baptismal Address

The Flood Prayer

Renunciation (entire congregation responds)

- P** Do you renounce the devil?
- C** Yes, I renounce him.
- P** Do you renounce all his works?
- C** Yes, I renounce them.
- P** Do you renounce all his ways?
- C** Yes, I renounce them.

Profession of Faith (entire congregation responds)

- 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.

The pastor returns to the front of the Nave with the Paschal Candle.

First Communion Prior to Confirmation

Cole Calander, Catibree Callison, Grace Marxhausen

Address to the Congregation

- P** Beloved in the Lord, in Holy Baptism ... and their understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar.

Address to the Candidates

Profession of Faith

Address to the Congregation

- P** Parents, (sponsors), and members of the congregation, the whole Church shares with you the responsibility and concern for the ongoing instruction and spiritual care of these young people. I now ask you, will you intercede for them in prayer and, as much as you are able, give them your counsel and aid that, in communion with the Church, they may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ? Then answer: We will, with the help of God.
C We will, with the help of God.

Stand

Collect

- P** Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ loved the young and called them to Himself, we ask You to bless these young people. Strengthen them in the faith through the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood so that they may grow spiritually and bring forth the fruits of faith in a life of love toward others to the praise and honor of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

The Peace

- P** We rejoice with thankful hearts in your confession of faith. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His holy Supper, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Peace ☩ be with you.
- C** Amen.

Blessing

- 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.

Following the Service of Holy Baptism, the candidates return to their places. The paschal candle is placed back in its stand, and the ministers return to their earlier stations.

Service of Prayer

Litany of the Resurrection

- A** O Lord,
C have mercy.
- A** O Christ,
C have mercy.
- A** O Lord,
C have mercy.
- A** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C hear us.
- A** Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
C have mercy on us.
- A** Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
C have mercy on us.
- A** Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"
C have mercy on us.

- A** Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,
- C** **have mercy on us.**
- A** Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
- C** **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
- C** **have mercy on us.**
- A** 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.**
- A** Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
- C** **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
- C** **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
- C** **have mercy on us.**
- A** 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.**
- A** Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
- C** **have mercy on us.**
- A** By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
- C** **good Lord, deliver us.**
- A** By Your victory over sin and death,
- C** **good Lord, deliver us.**
- A** By the majesty of Your risen body,
- C** **good Lord, deliver us.**
- A** We poor sinners implore You
- C** **to hear us, Lord Jesus.**
- A** That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,
- C** **grant us, good Lord.**
- A** That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,
- C** **grant us, good Lord.**
- A** That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,
- C** **grant us, good Lord.**
- A** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** **have mercy on us.**

- A** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **grant us Your peace.**
- A** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- A** O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
- A** O Lord,
C **have mercy. Amen.**

Service of the Word

The Chancel is now adorned for Easter, and the lights of the sanctuary are turned on and all candles lit. The Paschal Candle is brought forward to the front of the nave.

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We follow Divine Service, Setting III (p. 187) for the remainder of the Vigil

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

- P** Glory be to God on high:
C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**
**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**
**O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Salutation

LSB 201

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

Collect of the Day

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 27:57–66

Sermon

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

- ☐** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
- O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
- O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church believes and teaches that the Lord gives us His true body and blood in the bread and wine served in the Lord’s Supper for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, “This is My body, this is My blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins,” who repent of all sin, and who set aside any refusal to forgive and love others as He forgives.

Individuals who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a belief differing from this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with the Pastor, so as to refrain from eating and drinking in an unworthy manner causing harm to themselves.

For further reading, please take a copy of “A Simple Explanation of Fellowship in the Lord’s Supper” from the information rack in the Narthex. You can find the information rack near the pastor’s office by the front door. Members should use the questions on the back of this bulletin to help prepare to receive. St. Paul’s is a Closed Communion congregation.

Visitors are welcome to come to the rail but will receive a blessing from the pastor.

Distribution Hymns

675 *Oh, What Their Joy*



- 1 Oh, what their joy and their glo - ry must be,
- 2 In new Je - ru - sa - lem joy shall be found,
- 3 We, where no trou - ble dis - trac - tion can bring,
- △ 4 Now let us wor - ship our Lord and our King,



Those end-less Sab - baths the bless - ed ones see!
Bless - ings of peace shall for - ev - er a - bound;
Safe - ly the an - thems of Zi - on shall sing;
Joy - ful - ly rais - ing our voic - es to sing:



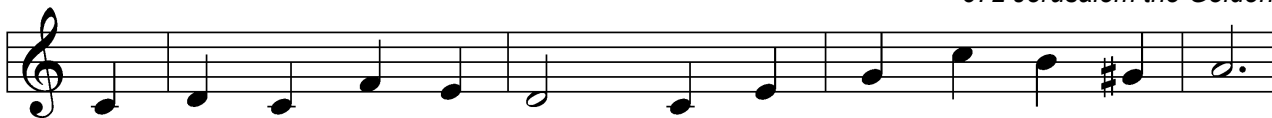
Crowns for the val - iant, to wea - ry ones rest;
Wish and ful - fill - ment are not sev - ered there,
While for Your grace, Lord, their voic - es of praise
Praise to the Fa - ther, and praise to the Son,



God shall be all, and in all ev - er blest.
Nor the things prayed for come short of the prayer.
Your bless - ed peo - ple shall ev - er - more raise.
Praise to the Spir - it, to God, Three in One.

Text: Peter Abelard, 1079–1142; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Antiphoner, 1681, Paris
Text and tune: Public domain

672 Jerusalem the Golden



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—
2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,
3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,
△ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!



The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—
As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.
Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!



We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:
The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;
They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,
In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest



The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!
The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.
Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.
With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830–95, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Collect

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.

G Amen.

Benedicamus

A Let us bless the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

G Amen.

