



EASTER VIGIL

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California



April 16, 2022

The Paschal Candle is a special candle used at every service during the Easter season and at baptisms and funerals year-round. The Paschal Candle—symbolizes the resurrection victory over the darkness of sin and death. It emphasizes the presence of the resurrected Christ and the link between baptism and the resurrection.

The name Paschal comes from the Greek, pascha. Before the time of Christ, this word was used for Passover; after Christ, Christians took to using the word when referring to the Festival of the Resurrection. Throughout the fifty days of Easter, the Paschal Candle traditionally stands near or in front of the altar as a symbol of resurrection. It is lighted for each service and is traditionally extinguished after the reading of the Gospel on Ascension. The Paschal Candle is of substantial size so its important symbolism speaks clearly. Even the stand in which it sits is of great size.

*To "keep a **vigil**" is to stay awake during the time usually spent asleep, especially to keep watch or to pray. Let us keep watch as our Savior sleeps. The congregation assembles in the church in darkness and silence
The Service of Light – CW93 p. 54*

The congregation assembles in darkness and silence. All are given candles as they arrive. We meet in the fellowship hall.

M: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and 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.

The minister speaks the following prayer:

M: O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people with the fire of your love. Bless, we ask you, those who keep this joyful Easter festival. Burning with desire for life with you, may we 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 Paschal Candle represents our Risen Lord shining in the light and splendor of His resurrection. He is the new "Pillar of Fire" leading His redeemed people out of the bondage of sin into the Promised Land of faith.

The minister traces the cross and the Greek letters (Alpha and Omega) upon it, saying:

M: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega.

The minister traces the circle on the candle, saying:

M: His are time and eternity; his are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

The minister makes the sign of the cross over the image of Christ on the candle, saying:

M: By his wounds we are healed now and forever.

The minister lights the paschal candle.

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

PRAYER

M: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing his Word and remembering his sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

C: Amen.

All light their candles from the paschal candle. Then, the paschal candle leads the way into the dark church. Procession stops at the altar

M: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Sing a New Song to the Lord | CW93 245

1 Sing a new song to the Lord, He to whom
 2 Now to the ends of the earth, See, his sal -
 3 Sing a new song and re - joi - ce! Pub - lish his
 4 Join with the hills and the sea Thun - ders of

won - ders be - long! Re - joi - ce in his
 va - tion is shown, And still he re -
 prais - es a - broad! Let voi - ces in
 praise to pro - long! In judg - ment and

tri - umph and tell of his pow'r! Oh,
 mem - bers his mer - cy and truth, Un -
 cho - rus, with trum - pet and horn, Re -
 jus - tice he comes to the earth. Oh,

sing to the Lord a new song!
 chang - ing in love to his own.
 sound for the joy of the Lord!
 sing to the Lord a new song!

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Tune: CANTATE DOMINO (77 11 8) David G. Wilson, b. 1940. © 1973 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

M: It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!

C: This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers. This is the night.

M: This is the night when first you saved our forebears: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery and led them dry-shod through the sea. This is the night.

C: This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness. This is the night.

M: This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.

C: The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy. Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth and we are reconciled with God!

M: 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: Amen

SERVICE OF LESSONS

The congregation extinguishes its candles. A few lights are turned on

Traditionally four Old Testament Lessons are read. The first reading reminds us of the perfect existence that will be restored to us in heaven. The other readings tell of God's great acts of deliverance in history, each prefiguring God's greatest act of deliverance in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. A period of silence for meditation and prayer follows the first three readings.

M: On 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 on those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-2:3

God created the world by his Word out of water. By the Word incarnate – crucified and risen – the world is recreated and made very good having been washed in Baptism.

First candle is lit

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you most wonderfully created human nature and yet more wonderfully redeemed it. By your mercy renew us in the image of him who came to share our humanity, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

By water the wicked world was destroyed and the godly saved. By water our wicked flesh is destroyed and we are saved.

Second Candle is lit

M: Let us pray.

O Lord, whose wrath burned against the evil of humanity, you kill and bring again to life according to your own purpose; you brought the flood on a wicked and perverse generation and yet saved faithful Noah and his family. Gather your elect into your Church and so complete your work of mercy, that the ends of the earth may know your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 46

THIRD LESSON

Exodus 14:10-15:1

A Passover lamb, a fiery pillar, walls of water, death and life. This was all too real for God's People. It all very real for us as the Lamb of God, the Light of the World brings us through the waters of Baptism into eternal life.

Third candle is lit

M: Let us pray.

O God, you once delivered your people Israel from slavery under Pharaoh and led them safely through the Red Sea. By this you gave us a picture of our Baptism. Lead us always to rejoice in your baptismal promise that we may live in its grace and declare to all people your desire to make them children of Abraham; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven | CW 621

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-11

This water is free. This gift is for you. Don't labor endlessly trying to earn what has been freely given by grace. That's faith, and such faith bears fruit.

Fourth candle is lit

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you created and sustain all things by the power of your Word. You send forth your Spirit to renew your creation. Give your saving water of life to all who

thirst, that they may bear much fruit in your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

FIFTH LESSON

Ezekiel 36:24-28

A new heart and a new spirit.

Fifth candle is lit

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in the miracle of Easter you raised your Son for our justification and through him have given us a new heart and spirit. Give power to your people to show in their lives what they confess with their lips, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SIXTH LESSON

Jonah 3:1–10

Jonah Preaches To Nineveh

Sixth light is lit.

M: Let us pray.

O God, as the prophet Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so Your Son Jesus spent three days in the heart of the earth. Grant us repentance to embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism and to proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SEVENTH LESSON

Daniel 3:1-29

God delivers his people from everything.

Seventh candle is lit

M: Let us pray.

O God, your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN

All You Works of God, Bless the Lord | CW 958

SERVICE OF BAPTISM

In ancient times adult catechumens, who underwent a one to three year catechesis, were baptized in this Vigil. The baptisms would occur during the Service of Holy Baptism. Those being baptized wore a white alb, much like pastor wears, symbolic of the white robe of righteousness.

M: On this holiest of days, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls his death and burial, rejoicing in the gospel of his glorious resurrection from the dead. Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul says:

"Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him in His death, we will certainly be united with Him in His resurrection." (Romans 6:3-11)

M: 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.

HYMN

All Who Believe and Are Baptized | **CW 692**

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

M: In Holy Baptism God takes away our sins and gives new life in Christ, our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

C: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

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

M: 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

M: Do 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. Amen.

M: Do you intend to continue in this faith, to be diligent in the use of Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

C: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

M: Almighty God, the 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.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: 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.**

M: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20 chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she went running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, "They've taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him!"

³At that, Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. ⁵Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then, following him, Simon Peter also came. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷The wrapping that had been on his head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself. ⁸The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then also went in, saw, and believed. ⁹For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

¹¹But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹²She saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus's body had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"Because they've taken away my Lord," she told them, "and I don't know where they've put him."

¹⁴Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. ¹⁵"Woman," Jesus said to her, "why are you crying? Who is it that you're seeking?"

Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you've carried him away, tell me where you've put him, and I will take him away."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

Turning around, she said to him in Aramaic, ^[a] “*Rabboni!*”—which means “Teacher.”

¹⁷ “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus told her, “since I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them what ^[b] he had said to her.

M: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The presiding minister changes from a purple stole, representing the season of Lent, into a gold stole, representing the season of Easter. The altar paraments are brought out during the hymn, a reversal of the stripping of the altar. The altar candles are lighted from the paschal candle. The lights of the church are fully lit, while the congregation sings the Hymn of Praise:

HYMN

This Is the Feast | **CW 938**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the resurrection of our Lord, preserve in all your people the Spirit of adoption which you have given, that they may serve you in faith and joy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

C: 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.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. *He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church.* Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY – *Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Words of institution both proclaim the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's Supper.

PEACE OF THE LORD – *Pax Domini*

John 20:19

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD – *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



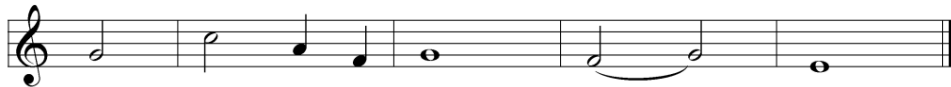
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal.

This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: “*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*” (1 Corinthians 11:28)

*Christ Lutheran Church confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a **Closed Communion**. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord’s Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.*

BLESSING

M: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and keep us.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

He Is Arisen! Glorious Word | CW 461

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Scripture Quotations: From the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV 1984), © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.



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Pastor Joshua Hanson

WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities
both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

Look what Christ is doing!

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

*“Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.”
(1 Corinthians 12:27)*