

Vigil of Easter

Easter Vigil Explanation

By most ancient tradition, this is the night of keeping vigil (that is, “keeping watch”) for the Lord (Ex 12:42) as the Passover in Egypt finds its fulfillment in the Passover of the Lord’s resurrection from the dead. Here the faithful, with lighted lamps or candles in their hands, rehearse the Gospel admonition in Luke 12:35-37: “Let your waists be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.”

The Easter Vigil is arranged in such a way that, after the Liturgy of Light and Easter Proclamation (Part 1), the Church meditates on the wonders the Lord God has done for His people from the beginning, trusting in His word and promise (Part 2) until, as day approaches, with new members reborn in Baptism, and with all members remembering their Baptism (Part 3), the Church approaches God’s throne in prayer (Part 4) and is then called to the table the Lord has prepared for His people (Part 5), the memorial of His death and resurrection until He comes again, and the foretaste of the eternal banquet to which all the faithful are invited. Thus we are reminded to keep watch for the Lord’s return by meditating on His wondrous works of salvation, by praying, and by receiving the ministry of His Word and Sacraments.

Rev. Paul A. Rydecki, Pastor
member of the Confessional Lutheran Ministerium

SERVICE OF LIGHT

All gather at the church door. Candles are given to all, later to be lit from the paschal candle.

P In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The pastor addresses the congregation and says the prayer. The congregation answers:

C Amen.

P Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

...the Alpha and the Omega.

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

...By His wounds we are healed both now and forever. Amen.

Then, lighting the paschal candle, he says:

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

Let us pray.

After the prayer, the congregation answers:

C Amen.

All light their candles from the paschal candle and then follow the candle bearer in procession into the church. At the entrance, the candle bearer stops and raises the paschal candle. The pastor chants:

P The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.

Halfway to the altar, the candle bearer stops. The pastor chants for the second time:

P The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.

When the candle bearer arrives at the candle stand, he faces the congregation and lifts the candle high. The pastor chants the third time:

P The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.

After the candle bearer places the paschal candle in its stand, the pastor chants the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet).

EASTER PROCLAMATION

P Rejoice now...with the praises of all God's faithful people.

P The Lord be with you.



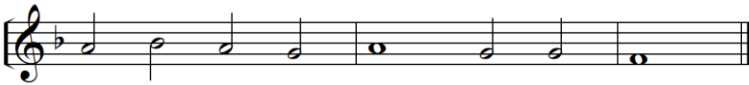
R And with your spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



R We lift them up un - to the Lord.

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



R It is good and right so to do.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...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.

All may extinguish their candles at this time.

Sit

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The pastor addresses the congregation and then reads the Holy Scriptures.

Reading #1: Genesis 1,2,3

Reading #5: Isaiah 55:1-11

Reading #2: Genesis 7,8,9

Reading #6: Ezekiel 36:16-28

Reading #3: Genesis 22:1-18

Reading #7: Daniel 3:1-30

Reading #4: Exodus 14,15

After each reading:

P Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

CANTICLE*ALL YOU WORKS OF THE LORD (Benedicite, Omnia Opera)*

The pastor chants the verses of the canticle. The congregation joins in the Refrain.



1 All you works of the Lord, | bless the Lord—*
praise Him and magnify Him for- |
ever.*

You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

2 You heavens, | bless the Lord;*
all you waters above the heavens, |
bless the Lord;*
all you powers of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

3 You sun and moon, | bless the Lord;*
you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord;*
all you showers and dew, | bless the Lord— **Refrain**

4 All you winds of God, | bless the Lord;*
you fire and heat, | bless the Lord;*
you winter and summer, | bless the Lord— **Refrain**

5 You dews and frost, | bless the Lord;*
you frost and cold, | bless the Lord;*
you ice and snow, | bless the Lord— **Refrain**

6 You nights and days, | bless the Lord;*
you light and darkness, | bless the Lord;*
you lightning and clouds, | bless the Lord— **Refrain**

7 Let the earth | bless the Lord:*
you mountains and hills, | bless the Lord;*
all you green things that grow on the earth, | bless the Lord— **Refrain**

8 You wells and springs, | bless the Lord;*
you rivers and seas, | bless the Lord;*
you whales and all who move in the waters, | bless the Lord— **Refrain**

9 All you birds of the air, | bless the Lord;*
all you beasts and cattle, | bless the Lord;*
all you children of men, | bless the Lord— **Refrain**

10 O Israel, | bless the Lord;*
you priests of the Lord, | bless the Lord;*
you servants of the Lord, | bless the Lord— **Refrain**

11 You spirits and souls of the righteous, | bless the Lord;*
you pure and humble of heart, | bless the Lord;*
let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy | Spirit— **Refrain**

P Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

P Let us pray,...one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

EPISTLE

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-24

P Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Let Israel now say, "His mercy endures forever."



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

P The right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

P The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

P This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand

GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. _____, chapter ____.



Glo-ry be to You, O Lord!

After the reading of the Gospel, the pastor says:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to You, O Christ!

Sit

SERMON

SERVICE OF BAPTISM

The pastor addresses the congregation and then prays Luther's Flood Prayer:

P Almighty and eternal God...through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

If baptismal candidates are present, they approach the font. The Pastor then asks them, together with the whole congregation:

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.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

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

P Do believe in the Holy Spirit?

C Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, a holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

If candidates for Baptism are present, the Rite of Holy Baptism follows. After the Rite:

HYMN

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy (back page)

P The 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.

P Peace ✠ be with you.

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF PRAYER

LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C hear 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, by dying, destroyed death, 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 Eleven, 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,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** By Your victory over sin and death,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** By the majesty of Your risen body,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, Lord Jesus.**
- P** 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.**
- P** 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.**
- P** 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.**
- 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 **grant us Your peace.**
- P** O Lord, **C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ, **C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord, **C** **have mercy. Amen.**

O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes a - way the sin of the
world, grant us Your peace. A - - - - - men.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION

The communicant members of the congregation are invited to the Lord's Table. After all communicants have communed, the service concludes with:

THE CONCLUDING COLLECT & BLESSING

Stand

P Let us pray.

The pastor chants the Collect, and the congregation answers:

C A - men.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

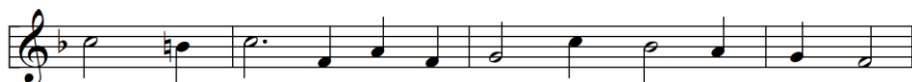
P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

R A - - - - - men.

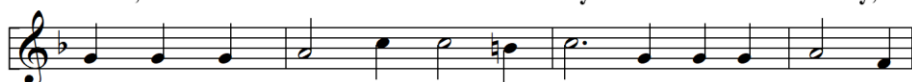
Baptized into Your Name Most Holy



1 Bap-tized in - to Your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and
2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, here You take me To be hence-forth Your
3 My faith-ful God, You fail me nev - er; Your prom - ise sure - ly
4 All that I am and love most dear-ly— Re - ceive it all, O



Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
child and heir. My faith-ful Sav - ior, here You make me
will en - dure. O cast me not a - way for - ev - er
Lord, from me. Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly;



A - mong Your saints, Your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and
The fruit of all Your sor - rows share. Here, Ho - ly Spir - it,
If words and deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy should I
Help me Your faith - ful child to be! Let noth - ing that I



dead to sin, Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.
com - fort me When threat-'ning clouds a - round I see!
be de - filed; For - give, lift up, re - store Your child.
am or own Serve an - y will but Yours a - lone.

Johann Rambach, 1693-1735, abr.;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt.

O DASS ICH TAUSEND