



### **About the Service**

*The Great Vigil of Easter is one of the oldest celebrations in the Christian tradition. Since ancient times, the Vigil has been the time when new members are welcomed into the church in baptism, and when the penitence of those members who had lapsed was celebrated and they were welcomed again into the hear of the community of faith.*

## Lighting of the Paschal Candle

*In the darkness, fire is kindled. The Celebrant welcomes the congregation;*

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For 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 Celebrant says*

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.

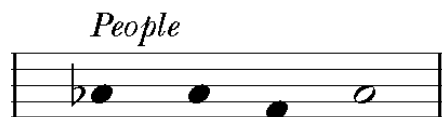
**Amen.**

## Paschal Procession

*The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Celebrant bearing the Candle, leads the procession to the chancel, pausing three times and singing or saying*



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

## Exsultet

*The Exsultet is sung as the Paschal Candle is brought to the front of the church*

## Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*Answer* **And also with you.**

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

*Answer* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

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; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

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.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and humankind is reconciled 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, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen!**

## **The Story of God's Saving Actions**

*The Celebrant introduces the story of God's Salvation, saying*

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

*The story of God's works of creation and salvation are now recounted*

## Hymn

*There is a Green Hill Far Away*

*Hymnal 167*

## Baptismal Covenant

*The Celebrant then says*

Let us renew our own baptismal covenant on this most holy night.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

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

People **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 to the dead.  
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.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant 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.**

*The Celebrant says*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Hymn of Praise**

*Jesus is Lord of all the earth*

Hymnal 178

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant then says*

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son

our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Epistle Reading** - Romans 6:3-11

**Gospel Sequence Hymn**

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

Hymnal 376

**Holy Gospel** Matthew 28:1-10

**Sermon** - The Easter sermon of St John Chrysostom

**Prayers of the People**

After each petition, the response is: Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Prayer is offered with intercessions for:

*The universal Church, its members and mission*

*The concerns of the local community*

*The nation and all in authority*

*Those who suffer and those in any trouble*

*The welfare of the world*

*Those who have died*

**Announcement of Absolution**

*The Celebrant declares God's absolution*

Hear the Good News!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ!

Christ died for us and rose for us.

Christ reigns in power for us and prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new one has begun.

Know that you are the beloved children of God

And be at peace.

**Peace**

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

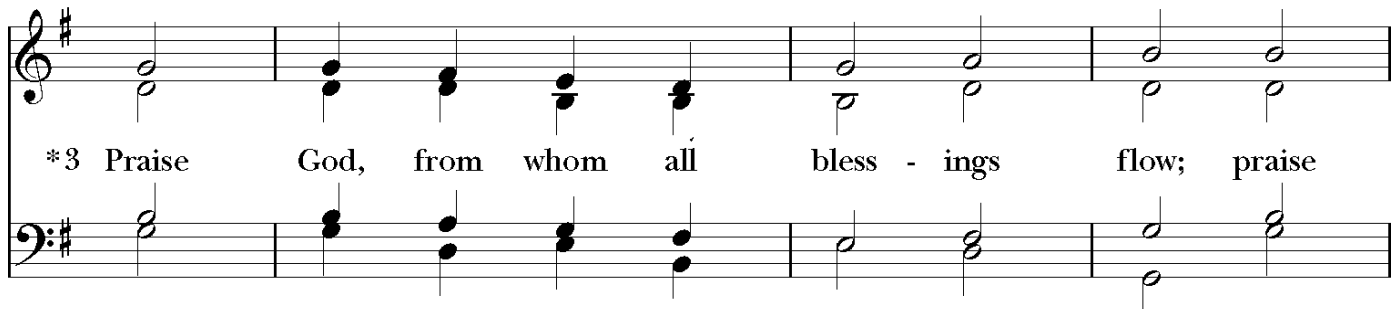
*People*

**And also with you.**

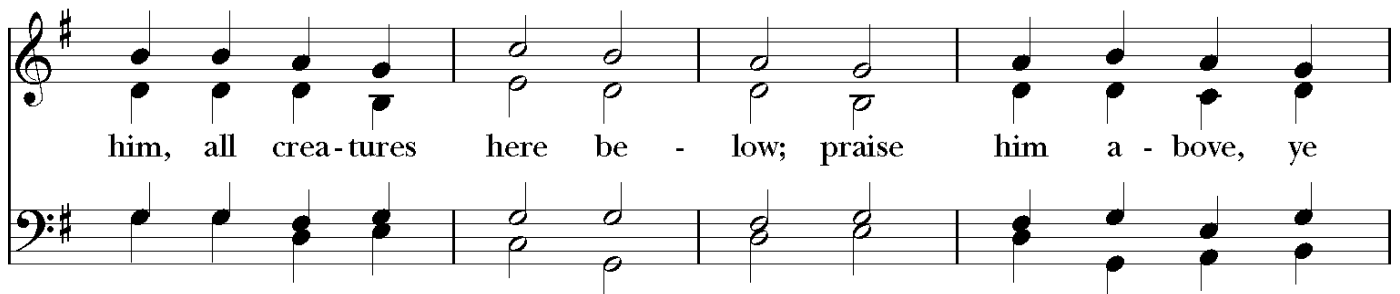
# Holy Communion

## Doxology

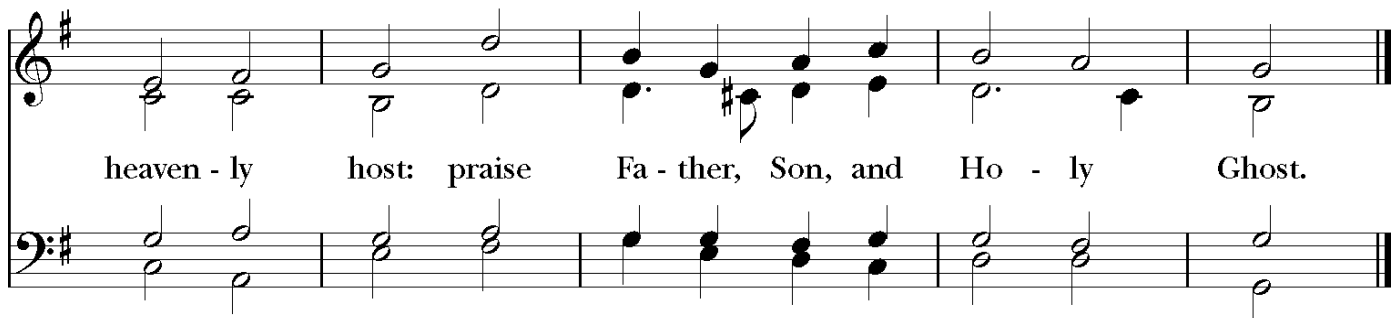
*Hymnal 380*



\*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise



him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye



heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## Great Thanksgiving

*The people remain standing.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* 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.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

S129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
 might, hea - ven 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.

*The Celebrant continues*

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

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.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor

and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

S147



*The Celebrant then continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

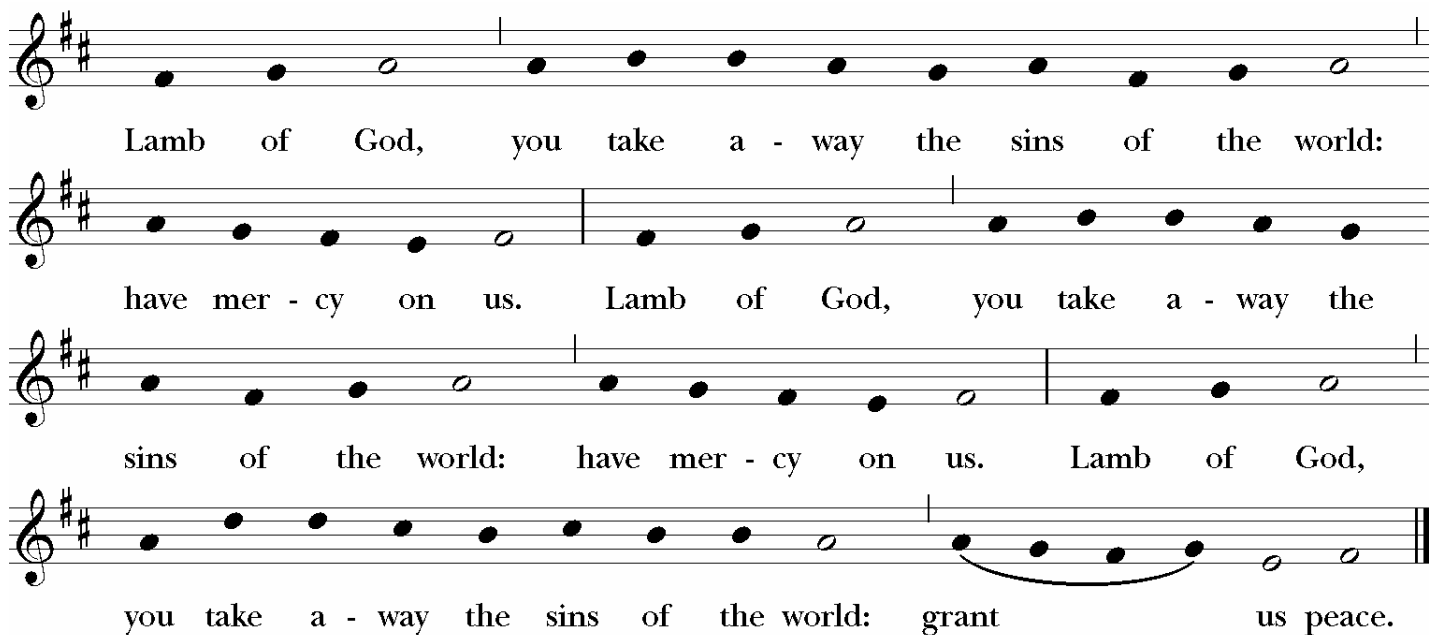
*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant*        **We break this bread to share in the body of Christ**

*People*           **We, who are many, are one body, for we all share  
in the one bread**

## Fraction Anthem

S161



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*The Celebrant invites the congregation to communion with these words*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Distribution of Communion

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*All persons are invited forward to receive a blessing in lieu of communion, please cross your arms across your chest to receive a blessing*

## Communion Hymn

*Love's Redeeming Work is Done*

*Hymnal 188*

## **Sending Prayer**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**God of abundance,  
you have fed us with the bread of life  
and cup of salvation;  
you have united us  
with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth  
in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever  
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

*The priest blesses the people,*

## **Sending Hymn**

*Come Away to the Skies*

*Hymnal 213*

## **Dismissal**

*Celebrant*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*

**Thanks be to God!**

Please join us for a reception in the Library after the service