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The Three Days

March 30, 2024 + The Great Vigil of Easter



This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Please see the back of this booklet for more information about this liturgy and Ebenezer.

Masks are welcomed, especially for those who have not been boosted,
cannot be vaccinated, are at higher risk, or simply prefer to do so.





Ebenezer is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. You are welcome here.

Welcome to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. **Welcome** to friends new and old. **Welcome** to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge.

Welcome to believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

Welcome.



This worship booklet is available in **LARGE PRINT** and may be **recycled** (in the baskets near the Welcome Center) or taken home. It is also online at ebenezerchurch.org.



Please silence phones and other devices during the liturgy.



A **platform lift** is available to access the Sanctuary, Education Center, and Restrooms. Please see an usher for assistance.



Restrooms are located up the stairs under the model ship, or down the stairs on the west side of the narthex entry area.



Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



Children are always welcome in worship at Ebenezer. A quiet play area is located in the narthex entry area.



Holy Communion, or the Eucharist, is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.

Acknowledgments: Liturgical Material reprinted from *SundaysandSeasons.com*. *NRSV Bible*, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. <u>onelicense.net</u> A-704767; CCLI 1875300; Augsburg Fortress 13045. Cover artwork: *Entry into Jerusalem*. Wilhelm Morgner, ca. 1910.

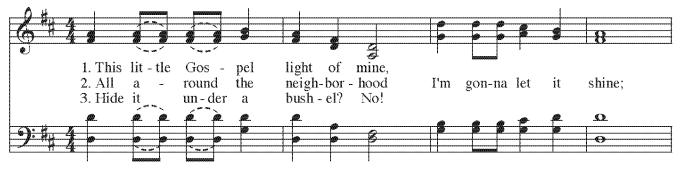
All are welcome to gather downstairs for refreshments and fellowship.

Gathering

The Assembly gathers, if able, in the courtyard around the New Fire.

Gathering Hymn

This Little Gospel Light of Mine





Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kindred in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ. **Amen.** *The paschal candle is inscribed.*

Christ, yesterday and today; (\pm) beginning and the ending. (A Ω) To Christ belongs all time; (2) all the ages; (0) all glory and dominion (2) now and forever. (4) **Amen.**

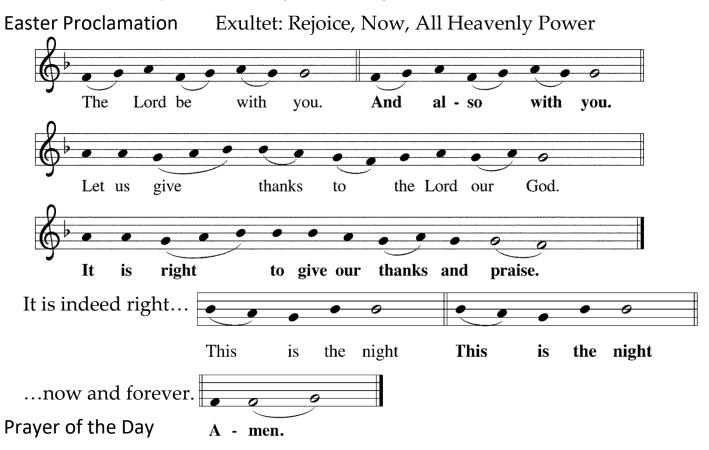
The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our | hearts and minds.

The assembly processes into the Sanctuary. Vigil candles are lit upon arrival in the pews.

Procession



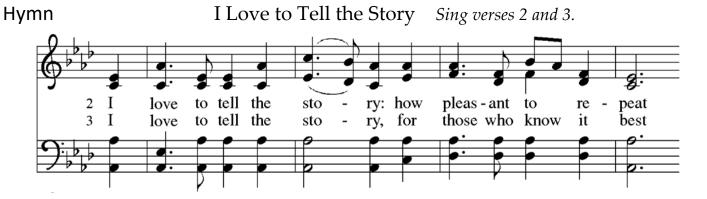
Please be seated in the pews in the back of the sanctuary.



Let us pray: O God, creator of the world, liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of Jesus Christ free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please extinguish your candle.

Word





The First Reading

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a Creation

Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness Sing verses 1 and 2.

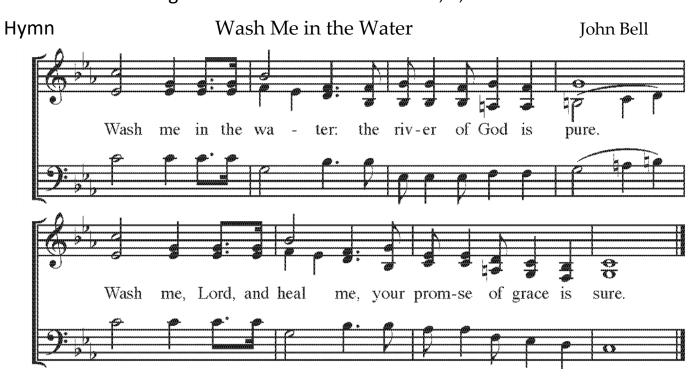




Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960 Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

Prayer

The Second Reading Selections from Genesis 7, 8, and 9 Flood



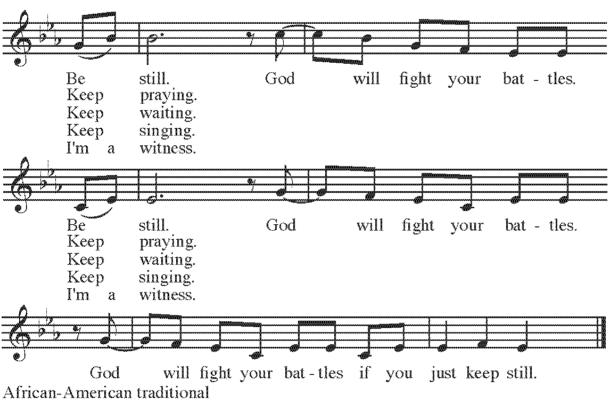
Prayer

The Third Reading Selections from Exodus 14 and 15 Deliverance at the Sea

Hymn Be Still, God Will Fight Your Battles



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Prayer



Prayer

The Fifth Reading/Song Ezekial 37:1-14 The Valley of the Dry Bones

Prayer

The Sixth Reading Jonah 1:1 – 2:1 *The Deliverance of Jonah*

Hymn Stand By Me



Prayer

The Seventh Reading Daniel 3:1-29 Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace



Prayer

Rise in body or spirit.

Please turn to face the Baptismal Font.

Affirmation of Baptism

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We pray in the name of Christ. **Amen.**



I ask you to profess faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess your faith. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

You have made profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever. **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Please process forward.

Gospel Procession Thine Is the Glory Sing verses 1 and 2.





Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

The Gospel

The holy gospel according to John.

John 20:1-18

Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; or as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

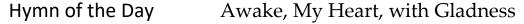
Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

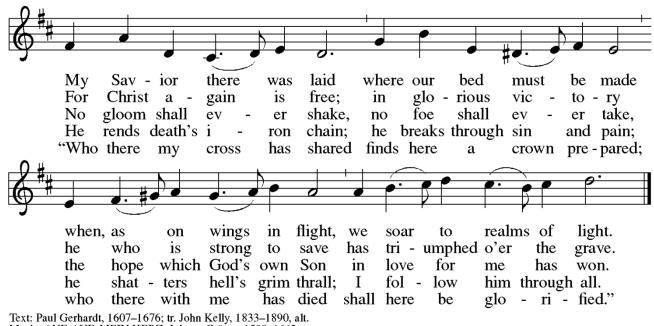
Gospel Response Thine Is the Glory Sing verse 3. Please be seated.

Homily Pastoral Intern Melissa Dailey

Silence for reflection follows. Rise in body or spirit.







Music: AUF, AUF, MEIN HERZ, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Prayers of Intercession The response to each intercession is: Hear our prayer.

Meal

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share a sign of peace with those around you, being mindful about whether touch is welcomed, or a verbal greeting is preferred. Check your neighbor's name tag:

A **yellow square** indicates a distanced elbow or fist bump is preferred. A red circle indicates your neighbor prefers a verbal, distanced greeting only.

For members of the Ebenezer community, an offering is part of our expression of gratitude to God. If you are visiting with us today, your presence is already a great gift.

Please be seated.

Offertory

O Quam Gloriosum

Tomás Luis de Victoria The Ebenezer Choir

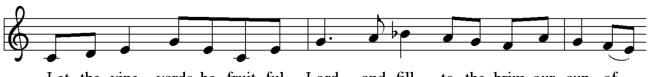
O quam gloriosum est regnum, in quo cum Christo gaudent omnes Sancti! Amicti stolis albis, sequuntur Agnum, quocumque ierit.

O how glorious is the kingdom wherein with Christ, joyful are the ransomed! Arrayed in white they follow the Lamb whither He leadeth.

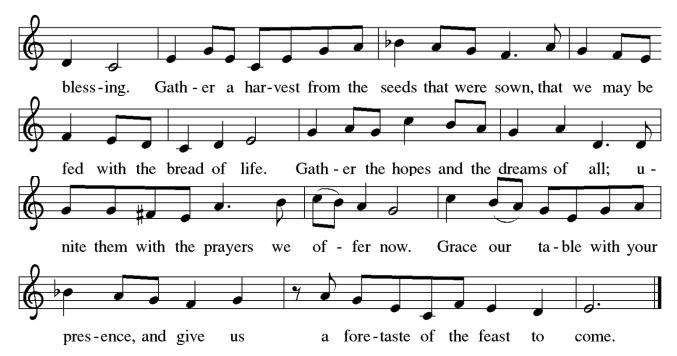
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Rise in body or spirit.

Offering Song



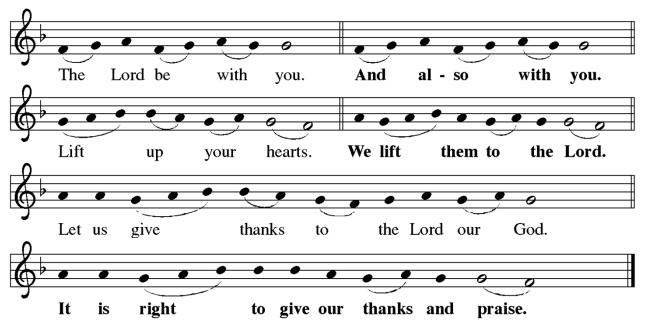
Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



Offering Prayer

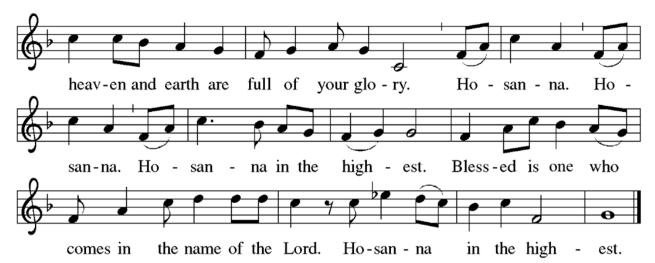
Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**





Preface and Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy Lord





Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.

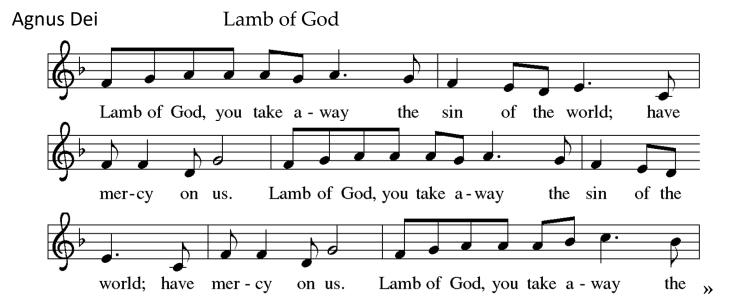
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

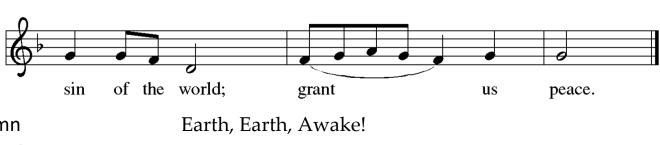
Invitation to the Table

The risen Christ dwells with us here. All are welcome at God's table.

All who seek Christ's presence in the sacrament are invited. This is a welcome table. At the invitation of the usher, you may come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread or a gluten-free wafer. Then, dip the bread in the cup of **red wine** or **white grape juice**, receiving the elements together. If you'd prefer to drink from a chalice, indicate this to the server and one will be made available.

Please be seated.





Hymn

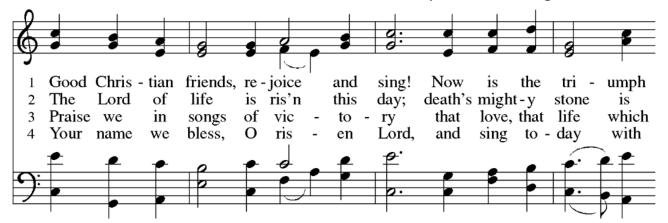


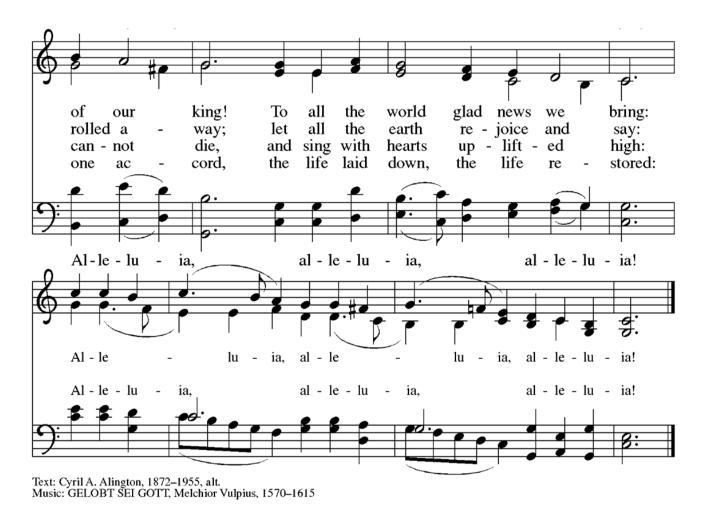
Life reigns a - gain this Eas - ter day! Al - le - lu ia! for who weep! Al - le - lu ia! Prom - ise of joy all bursts like flame from death's cold tomb! Al-le - lu Life ia! Praise we the King whose rule is love! Al - le - lu ia!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007 Music: STUEMPFLE, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing





Rise in body or spirit.

Blessing and Prayer

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep us in grace. Amen.

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. **Amen.**



Sending

Benediction

May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine on us with grace and mercy. May God look upon us with favor, + and give us peace. **Amen.**



Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909 Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. M.

Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889

Go in peace. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

Postlude Fantasia in C G.F. Handel

Dismissal

All are invited to an Easter celebration in the café following the postlude.