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FLIGHT AND SIN IS WASHED AWAY. IT CASTS

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HOW HOLY IS THIS NIGHT, WHEN WICKEDNESS IS PUT TO



OUT PRIDE AND HATRED, AND BRINGS PEACE AND CONCORD.

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ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH A.D. 2026

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In the earliest days of the Church, it was the custom of the first Christian believers to gather under the cover of darkness—in homes, caves, and catacombs—to keep vigil together as they awaited the first light of Easter.

In their ancient liturgy, these forebears of our faith lit the new Easter fire; recounted the stories of God’s saving deeds; baptized converts to the faith; and celebrated the first Eucharist of Easter.

Tonight, we join them in this centuries-old tradition and once again become the pilgrim people of God. This is the Great Vigil of Easter: the brightest jewel of all Christian liturgy, the climax of the Christian year, the queen of feasts and seasons, and the crown of all our earthly worship.

Candle Safety: Please exercise caution with your candle. While it is traditional to keep vigil candles lit through the Old Testament stories and baptisms:

- *You may extinguish your candle at any time.*
- *We will remain seated for the hymns during the Liturgy of the Word.*

Communion: All baptized Christians may receive Communion at St. John’s. If you are curious about how Communion will work, see instructions on page 27.

If you are new to St. John’s, you are especially welcome, and we hope you will make yourself at home. This worship booklet contains the full service for your convenience. Thank you for joining us for the most important service of the Christian year.

Please silence your cell phone before worship.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

All stand as the procession enters in silence.

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant addresses the people in these words

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ 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. Here we join our voices with those of faithful Christians across the span of ages. With our mothers and fathers, our sisters and brothers, the holy forebears of our ancient faith, we gather in darkness to light the new Paschal fire, to recount God's saving deeds, to pass through the waters of baptism, and to share with all creation in the triumph of our mighty King. This is the Great Vigil of Easter.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, ruler of the ages, through your only-begotten Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your eternal 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.*

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Deacon bearing the Candle, carries it to its stand. Pausing three times, a Cantor sings

 The Light of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet

A Cantor sings the Exsultet, the ancient prayer before the Paschal Candle.

Candles distributed to the congregation are lighted from the Paschal Candle at this time. Other candles and lamps in the church, except for those at the Altar, may also be lighted.

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King. Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Cantor and People



A-men.

You may extinguish your candle at any time.

The Great Vigil of Easter 3

The Story of Creation

[Genesis 1:1–2:2]

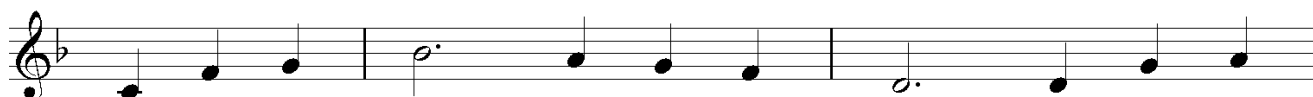
The reader appointed leads the Story of Creation.

Throughout the reading, the reader and people make the following call and response:

Reader . . . and it was so good!

People **So good!**

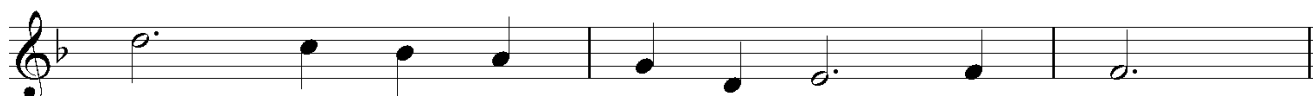
After the reading, **all remain seated** and sing the following.



1 Most Ho - ly God, the Lord of heaven, who in the
2 for you the daz - zling star shines forth which in its
3 The day de - parts, the eve - ning stars se - rene - ly
4 You, Ho - ly One, Cre - a - tor, Lord, you in the
5 Like sun and day, shine in our hearts; like moon and



1 high arched sky has placed the sun that flames up from the
2 gleam - ing path de - clares the won - ders of your glo - rious
3 light the dark - ening sky; the moon with cool re - flect - ed
4 pri - mal world once set the bound - aries of the day and
5 night, give lov - ing peace. Free us from bonds of blind - ing



1 east and brings the splen - dors of the dawn:
2 power, and beck - ons us to wor - ship you.
3 glow will bring the si - lenc - es of night.
4 night and or - dered sea - sons in their round.
5 sin and guide us on our path to you.

The Celebrant says

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

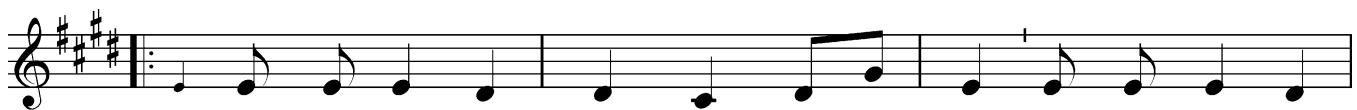
Jonah and the Great Fish

[Jonah 1-3]



The readers appointed lead the story of Jonah and the Great Fish.

After the reading, **all remain seated** and sing the following.



1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the wide - ness
2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure



tice, which is more than lib - er - ty. There is wel - come
ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given. There is plen - ti -
nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were



for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good; there is mer - cy
ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for
but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word; and our life would



of the sea; there's a kind - ness in his jus -
up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail -
of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter -



with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.



The Celebrant says

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, who brought your servant Jonah down into the deep and raised him up again as a sign of your mercy: Grant that we, who are buried with Christ in baptism, may be delivered from the depths of sin and death, and, being brought again to life, may proclaim your forgiveness and grace to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Samson Pulls Down the Pillars

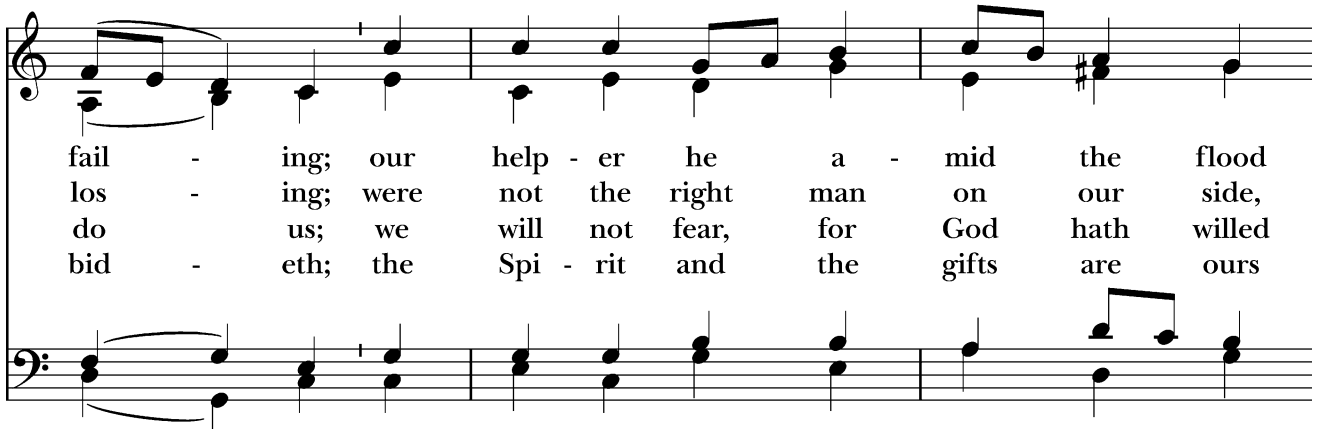
[Judges 16:23-31]

The readers appointed lead the story of Samson.

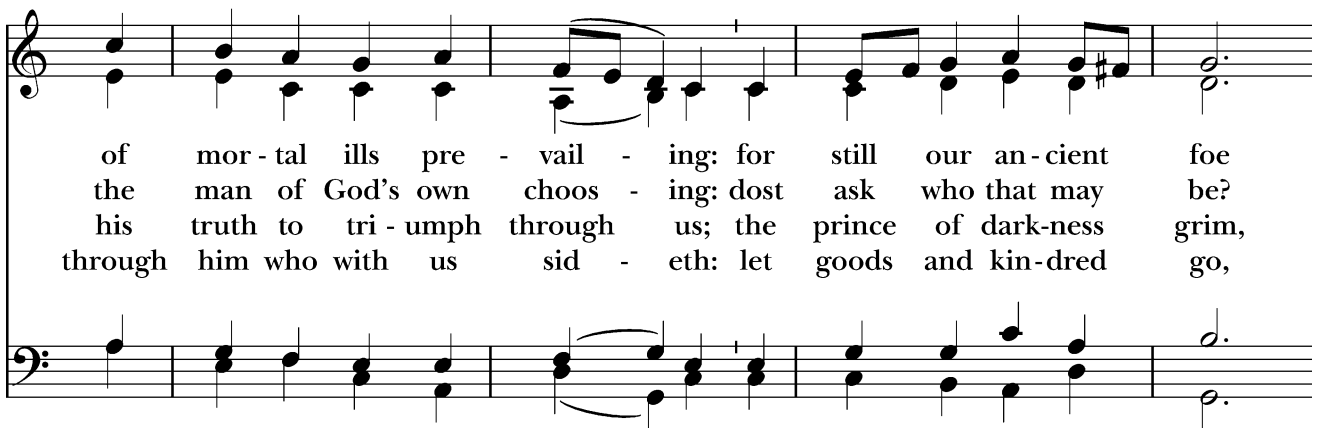
After the reading, **all remain seated** and sing the following.



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -



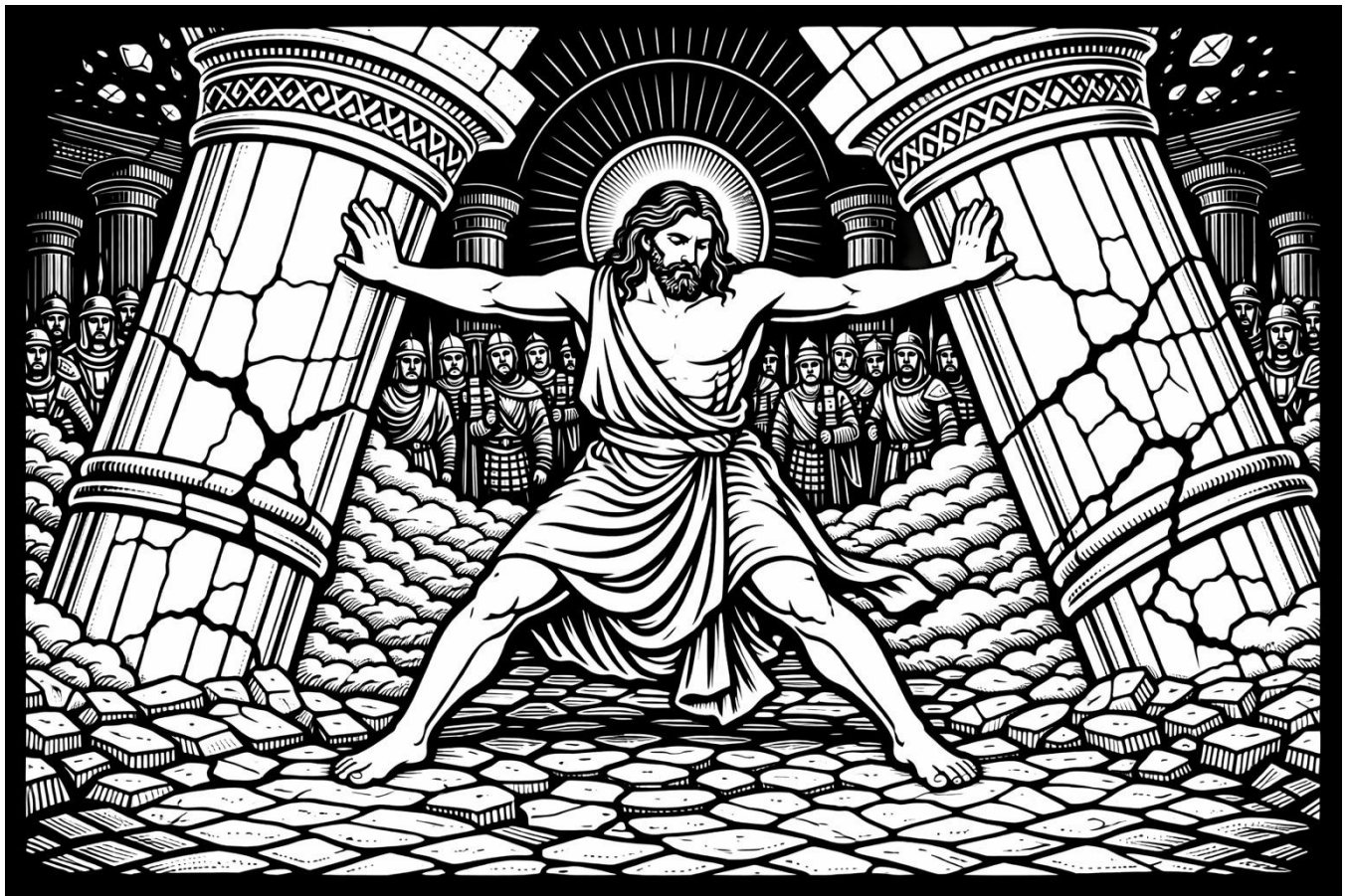
fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood
los - ing; were not the right man on our side,
do us; we will not fear, for God hath willed
bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours



of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: for still our an - cient foe
the man of God's own choos - ing: dost ask who that may be?
his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark - ness grim,
through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:

and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.



The Celebrant says

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Almighty God, who gave strength to your servant Samson and brought down the power of those who oppressed your people: Grant that we who share in the death and resurrection of your Son may be strengthened by your grace to overcome all that binds us and stand firm in the victory you have won; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

[Exodus 14:10–15:1]

The people join the appointed readers in the following responsive reading.

Reader 1 Why is this night different from all other nights?

People **This is the Passover of the Lord, when God led us out of slavery in Egypt, through the Red Sea, onto dry ground. We remember . . .**

Reader 2 how we were slaves for four hundred years in Egypt, where we were treated harshly.

People **We cried out to the Lord!
He heard us and sent our Father Moses to deliver us.**

Reader 1 God said to Moses, "Tell old Pharaoh . . .

People **to let my people go!"**

Moses But who was I to go? I did not know how to speak to Pharaoh, nor how to prove that God had sent me. When Pharaoh would not listen, God sent plagues upon the Egyptians. There were frogs, and lice, and flies.

People **There were boils, and hailstorms, and locusts.
There was a thick darkness, heavy as a shroud.**

Reader 2 Then the worst and most rending plague of all, the death of every firstborn in all the land of Egypt.

Moses God said to me, "Instruct my people to eat their last meal in Egypt. Tell them to take one lamb for every family and roast it. Tell them to eat it in haste."

People **We ate it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, with our sandals on our feet and our walking sticks in our hands. We remember . . .**

Reader 1 how we raised the blood of the lamb and smeared it on our doorposts, so the angel of death would pass over our homes.

Reader 2 And then we rose up and left the land of our oppression. We left so quickly . . .

People **our dough was still rising, our kneading bowls were wrapped on our shoulders, our sleeping children were nestled in our arms. We remember . . .**

Reader 1 how happy we were, until we came to the shores of the sea. And then, like frightened children, we forgot that it was the Lord our God who brought us this far, and we began to weep, and wail, and whine. We said . . .

People **O Moses, were there no graves in Egypt that you brought us out here to die? We should never have left. How much better to live as slaves than to die in freedom!**

Moses A great fear fell over the people, so strong that they longed for slavery once again. But God said:

Reader 2 “Moses! Tell my people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand firm, for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you. You have only to stand firm!’”

Reader 1 “Lift up your staff, Moses. Stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. The Israelites shall pass on firm, dry ground.”

People **The Lord drove back the sea with a strong east wind that blew all night, and turned the sea to dry land. We remember . . .**

Moses how the pillar of cloud went before us and behind us, and when Pharaoh’s army came after us, the Lord looked down and threw them into panic. God said:

Reader 2 “Moses, stretch out your hand again so the waters of the sea may return to their place.”

Moses Thus I did, and the Pharaoh’s army was drowned in the sea.

People **Then we feared the Lord, and believed in his servant Moses.**

Moses And when we arrived safely on the shore, our mothers danced and our sisters sang all through the night . . .

People **because God delivered us from the bondage of slavery and led us through the sea on dry foot. The Lord brought us home to the land of promise.**

Readers This is the Passover of the Lord . . .

People **. . . and we remember!
We remember!
We remember!
Amen.**

After the reading, **all remain seated** and sing the following.

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo-ple go;
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple go;
3 They jour-neyed on at his com - mand, let my peo-ple go;
4 Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, let my peo-ple go;

op - pressed so hard they — could not stand, let my peo-ple go.
to lead the chil - dren of Is - rael through, let my peo-ple go.
and came at length to — Ca - naan's land, let my peo-ple go.
and let us all in — Christ be free, let my peo-ple go.

Refrain

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land;

tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

The Celebrant says

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Holy Baptism

The Procession to the Baptismal Waters

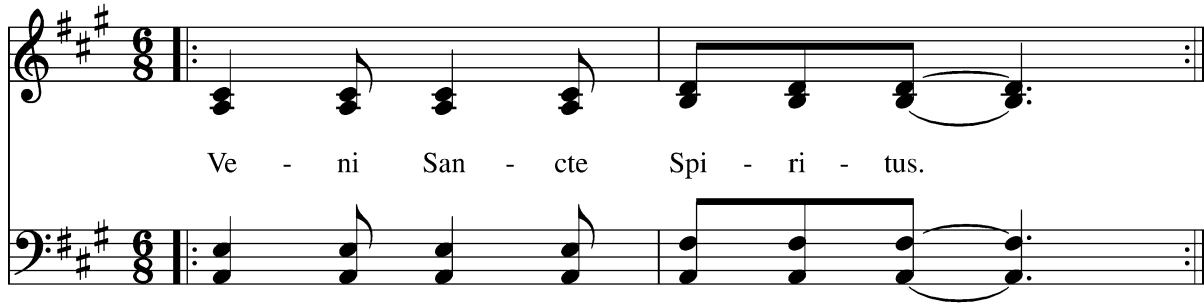
The Celebrant says

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. Now as our Lenten observance draws to an end, let us join with those who have come to be baptized on this night and renew our solemn vows by which we, too, have joined the family of God.

You may extinguish your candle at any time.

The Great Vigil of Easter 13

All sing the following as the celebrant, candidates, and sponsors process to the baptismal font.



Verses sung by the choristers:

Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light.
Come from the four winds, O Spirit, come breath of God;
disperse the shadows over us, renew and strengthen your people.

The Presentation of Candidates

When all are in place, the Celebrant says

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Adults and Older Children

The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually, as follows

Sponsors I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant N., do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

Infants and Younger Children

Then the candidates unable to answer for themselves are presented individually, as follows

Parents and Godparents

I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.



Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People We will.

The Celebrant continues, saying

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

You may extinguish your candle at any time.

The Great Vigil of Easter 15

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.

Prayers for the Candidates

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons, who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

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.*

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Baptisms

Each candidate is presented to the Celebrant, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Then the Celebrant places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. *Amen.*

When this action has been completed, the Celebrant prays over the newly baptized, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Proclamation of Easter

The Celebrant then says

And now, dear friends, through the Paschal mystery, we have been buried with Christ in Baptism and raised with him to newness of life. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O grave, is your sting?

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Alleluia! Christ is risen! |
| <i>People</i> | The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Alleluia! Christ is risen! |
| <i>People</i> | The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Alleluia! Christ is risen! |
| <i>People</i> | The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! |

The PEOPLE CHEER and make a JOYFUL NOISE as the tower bells ring.

The People extinguish their candles.

The Pascha Nostrum

During the following canticle, the remaining candles and lamps are lit and the Celebrant asperges the people with holy water.

Congregational Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ our Pass - o - ver has been sac - ri - ficed for
us; there - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

The Choir sings the following verse. All join in the refrain above.

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia. *Refrain*

The Epistle [Romans 6:3-11]

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

People The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

All stand as they are able and sing the following.

1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with
2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and
*3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri -
4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened

joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;
ra - dian't brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;
um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming
hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,

let the whole wide earth re - jice: death is con - quered,
Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion
yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the
ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er

we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.
pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

The Resurrection Gospel [Matthew 28:1-10]

All standing as they are able, the Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance as like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon.....The Rev. Lonnie Lacy

The Peace

All stand as they are able. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory

St. John's runs primarily on the generosity of its members. Give today via the offering plate; or text STJOHNS to 73256; or scan this code with your phone to give online. You can also mail your gift to St. John's Episcopal Church, Attn: Finance Office, 211 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. Every gift, large or small, sustains the church you love.



Offertory Anthem

Sing ye to the Lord..... Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

Sing ye to the Lord,
for he hath triumphed gloriously.
Pharaoh's chariots and his host
hath he cast into the sea.

Mighty Victim from the sky,
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light.

Now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
thou hast opened Paradise,
And in thee thy Saints shall rise.

Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light;

thou hast opened Paradise,
and in thee thy Saints shall rise.
Alleluia! Amen.

Text: Robert Campbell and Exodus 15:21b, 4a

Presentation of the Gifts

All stand as they are able.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low;
Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia! Praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host:
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

The people kneel as they are able. Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember all who are baptized across the world on this most holy night. And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. John and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

Celebrant and People



A-men.

The Lord's Prayer

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.



The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Antiphon sung first by the choir, then by all.



The musical notation is a single staff in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Choir

The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ. *Antiphon*

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

Communion Hymns

| | |
|---|-----|
| Christians, to the Paschal victim..... | 183 |
| Through the Red Sea brought at last | 187 |
| Come, ye faithful, raise the strain | 200 |
| Now the green blade riseth | 204 |

The Communion of the People

Communion is central to our worship at St. John's. All baptized Christians—regardless of age or denominational affiliation—are welcome to receive.

1 Wait for guidance from the ushers.

At the appropriate time, an usher will invite the people in your pew to rise and follow the line to the Communion rail or station. Those with limited mobility may request that Communion be brought directly to their pew.

2 Kneel or stand.

Most people kneel at the rail to receive Communion, but standing is also appropriate, especially if kneeling is difficult.

3 Receive the Bread.

As the minister approaches with the Bread, extend your hands with palms open and facing up. You may consume the Bread immediately or wait to have it dipped in the Wine.



4 Receive the Wine.

The Wine is served in a large chalice as a sign of unity. Assist the lay minister by guiding the chalice to your lips, holding it by the base, and take a small sip. If you prefer not drink directly from the chalice, you may offer your Bread to the lay minister and allow him or her to dip it in the Wine and hand it back to you to consume.



5 Return to your pew.

Return to your pew, kneel if you like, sing with the congregation, or offer your silent prayers to God.

If you are unbaptized or would prefer not to receive the Bread or Wine for any reason, cross your arms over your chest at the rail. This signifies to the priest that you wish to receive a blessing instead.

Communion Anthem

After Communion, all are seated and join in singing the following



Music: Calvin Hampton

Postcommunion Prayer

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

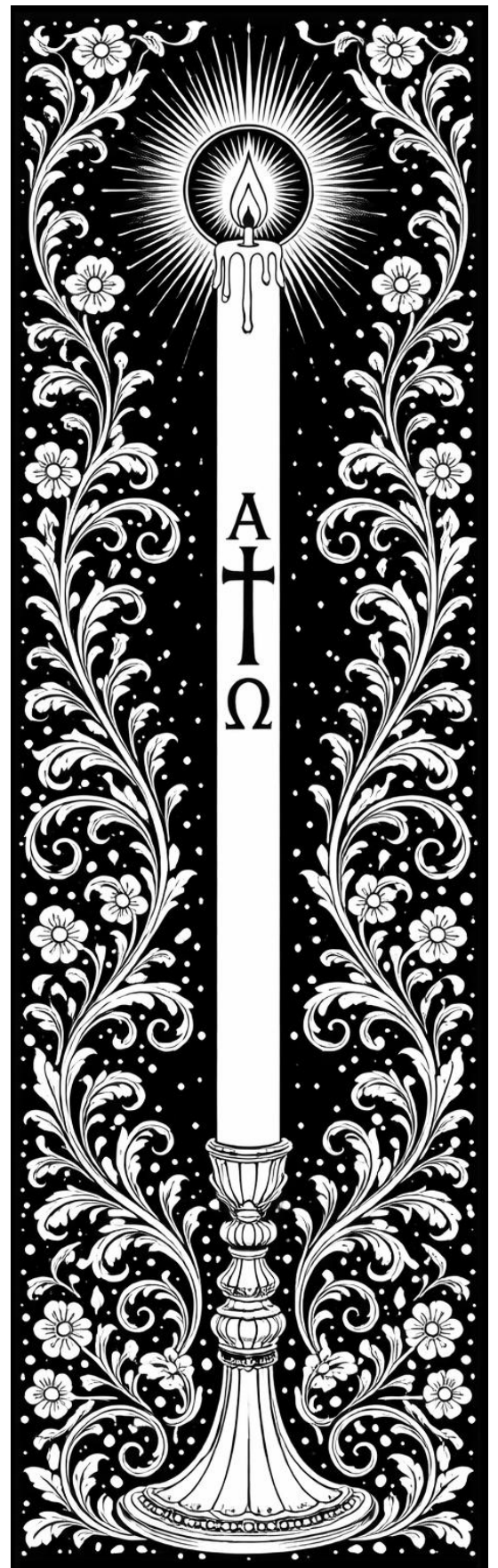
The Celebrant says

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and
made us his children through the resurrection of
his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his
blessing. *Amen.*

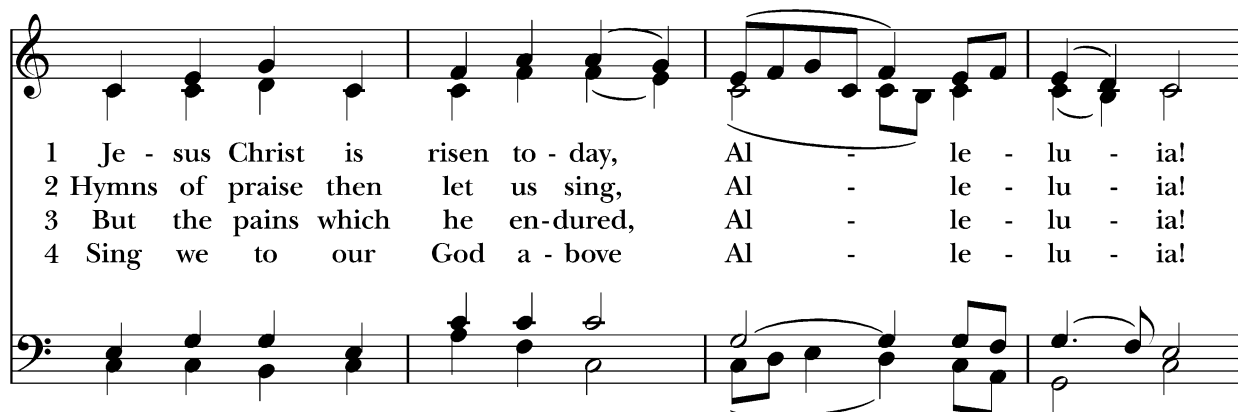
May God, who through the water of baptism has
raised us from sin into newness of life, make you
holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.
Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin
into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer,
bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

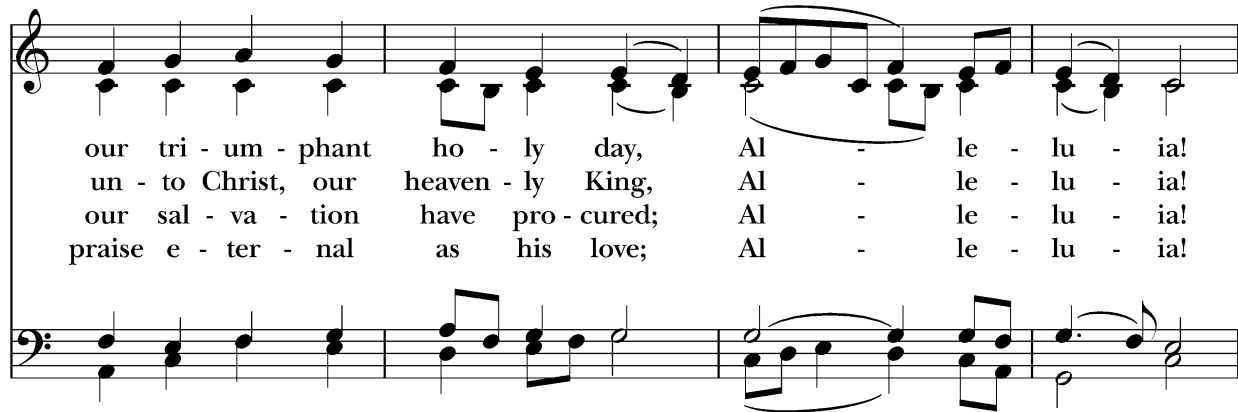
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain
with you for ever. *Amen.*



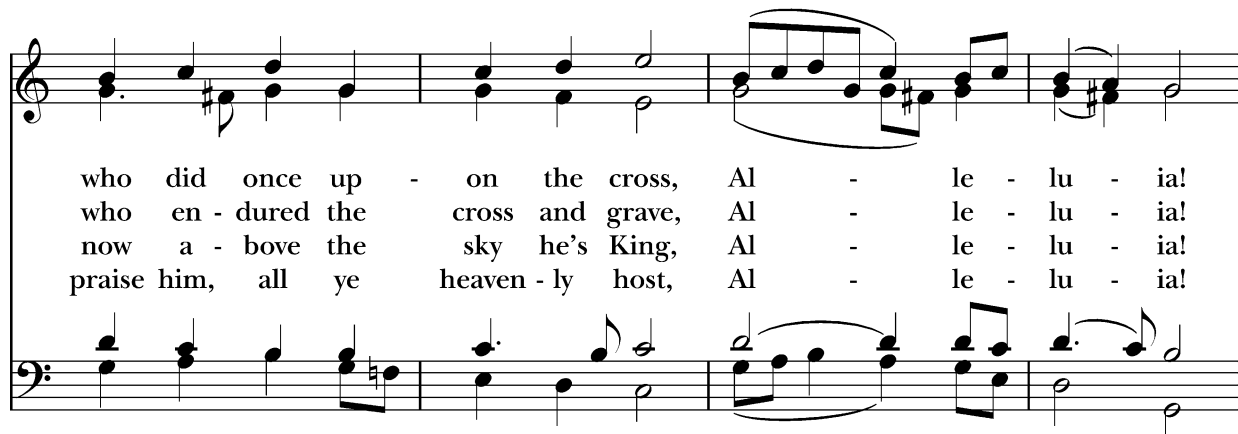
All stand as they are able.



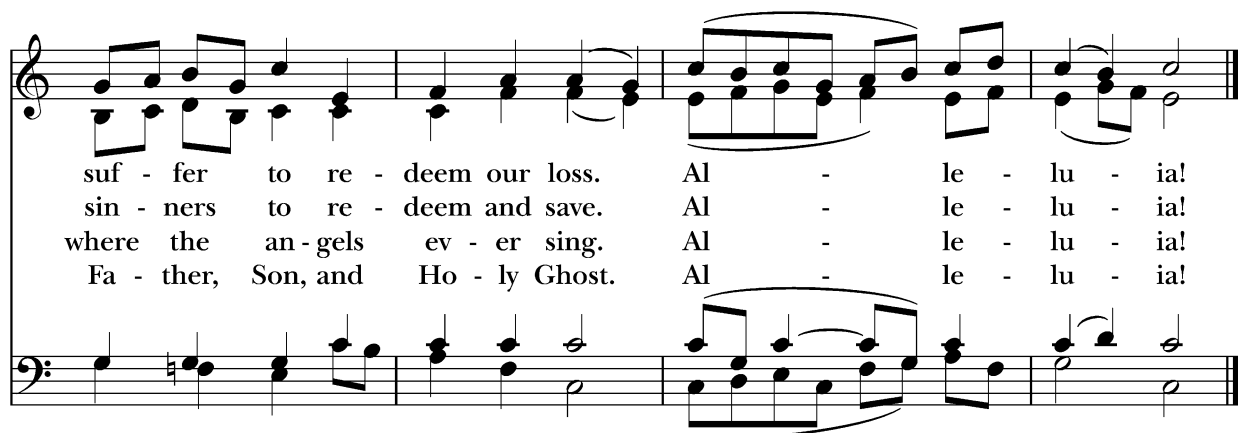
1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Jonathan Daniel Boone Kuersteiner by Mike,
Garrett, Britton, Kenley and Raynes Robinson
Juanita Sanders Roddenberry by Becton
Roddenberry
Kimberly Strickland Roddenberry by Becton
Roddenberry
Majesty Becton Strickland by Becton
Roddenberry
Marge and Roger Collar by Susan Collar Ross
My husband John L. Dean and son Wm. Gordon
Dean by Teresa Dean
My husband Jim Ogorek by Carol Newman
My loving husband David Watson by Judy
Watson
My loving parents Robert and Sally Herstine by
Lucinda Keeseey
My wonderful neighbor Peggy Daffin by Mimi
Livingston
Omer and Sarah Adams by Gene and Susan
Adams
Our friends who have gone before us by Tom
and Mahaska Whitley
Our grandparents by Phil and Betty Ashler
Our parents by Phil and Betty Ashler
Our parents Gordon Long and Laura Hopkins
Long and William and Frances Crook Dean by
Teresa Dean
Sarah Ball and Julian Proctor, Palmer Proctor Sr.,
Sarah Proctor Crowder and Sammie Crowder
by Susan and Martin Proctor and family
Sarah Lou Harkey by Linda Harkey
Skip Livingston by Mimi Livingston
Steve and Helen Edwards by Leigh Edwards
The lives and love of my husband Edward
Thompson Babcock and my daughter Gianna
Marie Mitchell by Barbara Sepielli
Tina Fleming Campbell by Francine Andia Walker
Tom Zutell by Charles McElroy
Wayne and Barb Kiger, Seabie and Letha Rucker
by Wayne and Paula Kiger
Weymouth Tyree and Louise Jordan and Pete
and Betty Wright by their family
Will Proctor by Ramsay Carswell

William "Buddy" Edmisten and Carolyn B.
Edmisten by their family

**Easter lilies
have been given to the glory of God
in thanksgiving for**

Betty Kane by her children and grandchildren
Cynthia Paulson by Rachel and Grace
Deputy Stefon by the Schoonover kids
Harry Dovey, a loving grandfather by Cheryl and
John Goodson
Jane Menton by Mary Call Ford
My children, grandchildren, and great-
grandchildren by Betty Kane
My son and daughter-in-love Jay and Kate
Mitchell by Barbara Sepielli
Nana and Papa by Liberty, William and Andrew
Our children and grandchildren by Susan and
Martin Proctor
Our children and grandchildren by Doug and
Cindy Sessions
Our children and grandchildren by Ray and
Kathy Bye
Our children Caulley and Joe Soto, Jordan and
Andrei Antohi by David and Debby Fonvielle
Our children Chris, Lucy, Sarah and Matt, and
our grandchildren Eleanor and Will by their
family
Our children, grandchildren, and great-
grandchildren by Tom and Mahaska Whitley
Our godson Flynn Sandy by Uncle Schoonie and
Aunt Alli
Our grandchildren Holt and Clayton Antohi,
Sarah Caulley and Mary Clayton Soto by
Granddavid and Deeda
Our grandsons Harper and Myles by Tom and
Cathy Bishop
Sarah, Ben, Sadie, and Molly by their family
St. John's and my family and friends by Helen
Haines
St. John's by the Skelding and Pla family

**Music dedications
have been given to the glory of God
in loving memory of**

Corinne E. Dougherty by her daughter Sonnia Cherres

Edan and Richard Rubado by Sue C. Harms

Howard Hartsfield by Shannon Hartsfield

Jim Macmillan by Joan Macmillan

Our parents and grandparents by Tom and Cathy Bishop

Our parents Bill and Mary Ella Sessions and Jim and Jimmie Lee Coram by Doug and Cindy Sessions

Wesley and Helen Ponder by Roger Ponder

**Music dedications
have been given to the glory of God
in thanksgiving for**

Ann Redmond by Rachel and Grace

Anne, John, Clay and Jack by Martha Gene Wigginton

Corinne E. Dougherty's life on her anniversary of her death by her daughter Sonnia Cherres

Hamlet by Mary Irvine

Marissa and the St. John's Choir by Helen Haines

Marissa and the St. John's Musicians by Mary Anne Gray

Mary Call Proctor, the Palmer Proctor Jr. family, the Collins Proctor family, and the Rollins Miller family by Mary Call and Mott Ford

My loving family by Judy Watson

Our children and grandchildren by Phil and Betty Ashler

Our many blessings by the Perkins family

St. John's Choir School by the Paulson family

The 2025 Wardens, Treasurer, and Finance Chair of St. John's: Leslie Redding, Kathy Bye, Cindy Sessions, and Jen Garretson by the Rev. Lonnie Lacy

The lay staff of St. John's: Nancy Barfield, Alvin Bennett, Claire Dodd, Denali Duncan, Fran Doxsee, Drew Flury, Greg Gigliotti, Marissa Hall, Jessica Jerrels, Tyree Jordan, Kristi Leger, Vivian Leonard, Connor Myers, Pamela Marsh, Mike Norris, Ioan Paquay, Adam Ravain, Elizabeth Robertson, Glenn Sanger-Hodges, Holly Sinco, Tyrese Woods, and Vanessa Wilcox by the Rev. Lonnie Lacy

The Rev. Leslie Rorback by the Rev. Lonnie Lacy



**St. John's
Episcopal Church**

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Deep Roots. True Belonging. Abundant Grace.