

~ADDITIONAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES~

EASTER SUNDAY, March 31, as follows:

6:00 A.M. SONRise SERVICE Chippens Hill (Water Department Property)

8:00 A.M. DIVINE SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION

(no adult Bible Study or Sunday School)

10:45 A.M. DIVINE SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION

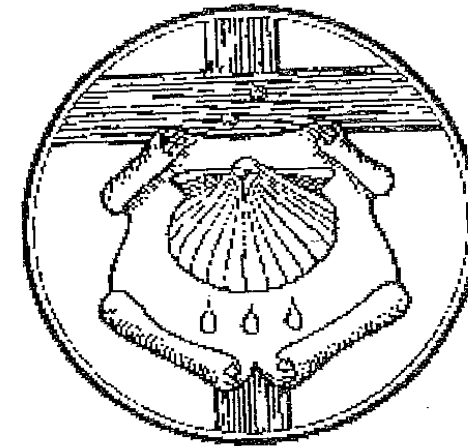
VIGIL OF EASTER

General Notes

1. The Vigil of Easter, which is celebrated at the end of Holy Saturday as the conclusion to the sacred Triduum, ushers in the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. The Vigil of Easter connects the days of Holy Week, especially Holy Thursday and Good Friday, with the culminating celebration of the resurrection of Christ from the dead.
2. In some places throughout the early centuries of the Church's life, the people of God would hold vigil, which means "keep watch," through the night in expectation of Christ's return. A vigil in expectation of Christ's return at Easter became a common feature of the celebration of His crucifixion and resurrection. The vigil consisted of prayer, psalms and hymns, and readings, especially from the Old Testament, culminating in the celebration of the resurrection at dawn with the Lord's Supper. As the Church gathered in vigil, she waited in hopeful expectation for the appearance of the resurrected Christ in those most recently born in Him, the newly baptized. During the vigil, those who had prepared throughout Lent to be joined to Christ were baptized. At the dawn of the new day at Easter sunrise, the newly baptized joined the entire Church in the chorus of alleluias at Christ's resurrection from the dead.
3. While making a vigil through the night may not be common today, Christians nonetheless gather on Holy Saturday to wait in expectation for the news of Christ's resurrection and for His second coming. As a service of watching that ushers in the resurrection, the Vigil of Easter is comprised of six parts:
 - the Service of Light,
 - the Service of Readings,
 - the Service of Holy Baptism,
 - the Service of Prayer,
 - the Service of the Word,
 - the Service of the Sacrament.
4. Because the Vigil of Easter marks the final day in the sacred Triduum, the service ends with the Benediction, which has not been heard since the beginning of the Triduum, and the Easter Acclamation: **Christ is Risen!**

***Vigil of Easter
Service of Light***

*(For notes about the history &
significance of this service,
see the back cover.)*



*The Thirtieth day of March in the Year
of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-four*

*Immanuel Lutheran Church
154 Meadow Street
Bristol, Connecticut 06010*

VIGIL OF EASTER — SERVICE OF LIGHT

P: In the Name of the Father and the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus 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, we share in his victory over death.

P Let us pray.
O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit enkindles the hearts of your faithful people with the fire of your love. Bless, we implore you, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with you, we may 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.

Pastor steps forward, holding the paschal candle, traces the cross and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega upon it, saying:

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

Then, lighting the candle, he says:

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

P Let us pray.
Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Then, when the paschal candle is held aloft by the pastor, all follow in procession into the darkened church. At the entrance of the nave, the pastor stops and chants.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb? But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered to the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

After the reading

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C (sung) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

P Let us pray to the Lord.
O God, for our redemption You 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 that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen (sung)

BENEDICTION (sung)

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace

C Amen. (sung)

POSTLUDE

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Altar candles are lit
Divine Service - Setting One page 155-157

(Stand)

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE (sung) (Revelation 5:11-14)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION (sung)

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY (sung)

- P 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, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen. (sung)

HOLY GOSPEL — Mark 16:1-8

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th chapter.
- C (sung) Glory to you, O Lord.

- P The Light of Christ.
- C (sung) Thanks Be to God.
When the pastor reaches the middle of the nave, he chants for the second time:
- P The Light of Christ.
- C (sung) Thanks Be to God.
When the pastor arrives at the candle stand, he turns to face the congregation.
After all have reached their places, the pastor lifts the candle high and chants the third time:
- P The Light of Christ.
- C (sung) Thanks Be to God.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

- P Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing with the praises of all God’s faithful people.
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And with your spirit.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C It is good and right so to do.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For he is the very Paschal Lamb who offered himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of his precious blood. 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 ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave you gave your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away.

How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is this night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. 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.

(The congregation is seated)

SERVICE OF READINGS

P In this most holy night our Savior, Christ, the Lord, broke the power of death 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 upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Creation

P A reading from Genesis, chapters 1 and 2.
Genesis 1:1-2:2

After the reading

P This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in your mercy we may be conformed to the image of him who shares in our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The Flood

P A reading from Genesis, chapters seven, eight and nine.
Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

After the reading

P This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Who appeared to Peter and the Twelve, 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.

THE LITANY

- 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 destroyed Death by dying, and by rising to life again have 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 the seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
C **Have mercy on us.**

- P** Let us pray.
O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood on a wicked and perverse generation yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ’s body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Israel’s Deliverance at the Red Sea

- P** A reading from Exodus, chapters 14 and 15.
Exodus 14:10-15:1

After the reading

- P** This is the word of the Lord.
C **Thanks Be to God.**

- P** Let us pray.
O God, you once delivered your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

The Valley of Dry Bones

- P** A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 37.
Ezekiel 37:1-14

After the reading

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

- P** Let us pray.
O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam’s children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

During the hymn, the pastor moves to the paschal candle at the baptismal font.

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

P On this holiest of nights the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says: *(Rom. 6:3-11)*
“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now 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. For the death 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.”

(Stand)

FLOOD PRAYER

P 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 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 have been inherited from Adam 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. Amen.

RENUNCIATION OF THE DEVIL AND CONFESSION OF FAITH

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, maker of heaven and earth?
C Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
P Do you believe in Jesus Chris, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
P Do you 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.
P Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and 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.

Following the Service of Holy Baptism, the minister returns to his earlier station. The congregation is seated.