



by Carrie Montalto

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

THE GREAT VIGIL *of* EASTER

April 4, 2026

CONCERNING THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

The Great Vigil, when observed, is the first liturgy of Easter Day. It is celebrated at a convenient time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter morning. It is appropriate that the service begin in darkness. The liturgy normally consists of four parts:

The Service of Light: a new fire is kindled, and from it the Paschal Candle is lit, symbolizing Christ, the light of the world. The Exsultet, an ancient song of praise, is sung or said as the climax of this part of the liturgy.

The Service of Lessons: key passages from Scripture recount the history of God's mighty acts and promises. These readings are accompanied by psalms, canticles, and prayers.

Holy Baptism is the Sacrament through which candidates are united to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (ROMANS 6:3-4), which the Church celebrates on this most holy night. When the Bishop is present, confirmation may also be administered. If there are no candidates for Baptism or confirmation, the Congregation joins in a Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

The Holy Eucharist is the proper culmination of the Easter Liturgy. As we keep this holy feast, we share the joy of our Savior's triumph and are strengthened by his grace to walk in newness of life.

THE GREAT VIGIL *of* EASTER

*Congregational responses are indicated in **boldface**.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

In the darkness, fire is kindled; after which the Celebrant says

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 may say the following prayer

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: sanctify this new fire, we pray, and so set us aflame with the fire of your love, that with pure hearts and kindled affections we may attain to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Celebrant lights the Paschal Candle from the newly kindled fire, and says

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

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.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.

THE EXSULTET

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. **Amen.**

The Celebrant sings and the people respond in singing



Celebrant The Lord be with you.



People And with your spi - rit.



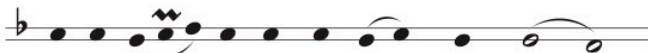
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.



People We lift them up to the Lord.



Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Cantor continues

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;

who paid for us the debt of Adam's sin,
and by his blood delivered your faithful people;

for he is the true Paschal Lamb, the very Lamb of God,
whose blood marks the doorposts of believers
and makes us holy.

This is the night when you brought our forebears, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt,
and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night when with a pillar of fire
you banished the darkness of our iniquity.

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.

Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God,
is your mercy and loving kindness to us,
that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

O wonderful providence of Adam's sin
destroyed completely by the death of Christ.

O happy fault, which gained for us
so great and glorious a Redeemer.

This is the night of which it is written:
the night shall be as bright as the day.

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 Man is reconciled to God.

Therefore, O holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice,
the offering of this candle in your honor,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,
the gift of your most holy Church.

May it mingle with the lights of heaven,
and 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.

The People then sing



A-men.

THE LESSONS

The Celebrant may introduce the Scripture readings in these or similar words

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, remembering how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that God may bring to completion in each of us the saving work he has begun.

THE CREATION

GENESIS 1:1–2:3

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Creator of the Stars of Night

Text: Latin, 5th-10th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: Sarum plainsong, c. 9th cent., mode IV



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2 Thou, griev - ing that the an - cient curse
3 Thou cam'st the Bride - groom of the bride,
4 At whose dread name, ma - jes - tic now,



Thy peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing Light:
Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
As drew the world to e - ven - tide,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;



O Christ, Re - deem - er, save us all
Hast found the heal - ing, full of grace,
The spot - less Vic - tim all di - vine
All things ce - les - tial Thee shall own,



And hear Thy ser - vants when they call.
To cure and save our ru - ined race.
Pro - ceed - ing from a vir - gin shrine.
And things ter - res - trial, Lord a - lone. A - men.

The Celebrant prays

Let us pray.

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.**

THE FALL

GENESIS 3

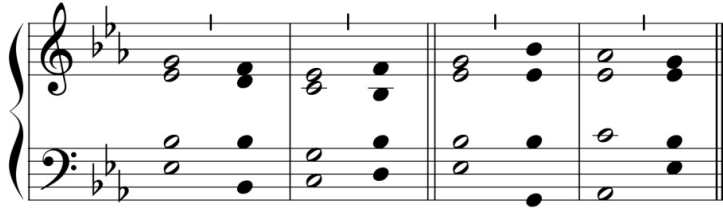
After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



- 1 Blessed is the one whose unrighteousness is for¹ given, |
and whose sin is¹ covered. ||
- 2 Blessed is the one to whom the Lord imputes no¹ sin, |
and in whose spirit there is no¹ guile. ||
- 3 For while I held my tongue, my bones wasted a¹ way; |
I ceased not from groaning all the day¹ long. ||
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and¹ night, |
and I was dried up and withered, as in the drought of¹ summer. ||
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin unto¹ you, |
and I did not hide my in¹iquity. ||
- 6 I said, “I will confess my sins unto the¹ Lord”; |
and so you forgave the wickedness of my¹ sin. ||
- 7 For this reason shall all the godly make their prayers unto you at a time when you may be¹ found; |
when the great floodwaters rise, they shall not¹ reach them. ||
- 8 You are my hiding-place; you shall preserve me from¹ trouble; |
you shall encompass me with songs of de¹liverance. ||

The Celebrant prays

Let us pray.

O God, you sent your blessed Son, the seed of the woman, that he might crush the serpent's head and make all creation new: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE FLOOD

GENESIS 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-20; 9:8-13

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Jesus, Lover Of My Soul



1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy
2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help-less
3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in
4 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er



bos - om fly, while the near - er wa - ters roll,
soul on thee. Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone;
thee I find. Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint,
all my sin. Let the heal - ing streams a - bound;



while the temp - est still is high. Hide me, O my
still sup - port and com - fort me. All my trust on
heal the sick, and lead the blind. Just and ho - ly
make and keep me pure with - in. Thou of life the



Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past.
thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring.
is thy name; I am all un - righ - teous-ness.
foun - tain art; free - ly let me take of thee.



Safe in - to the ha - ven guide.
Cov - er my de - fense - less head
False and full of sin I am;
Spring thou up with - in my heart.



O re - ceive my soul at last!
with the shad - ow of thy wing.
thou art full of truth and grace.
Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

The Celebrant prays

Let us pray.

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through the merits of him who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

EXODUS 14:10—15:1

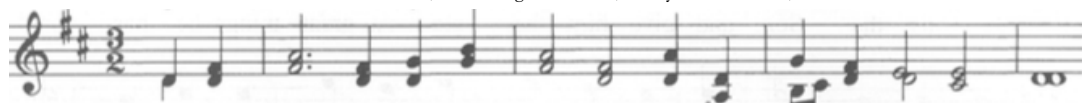
After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

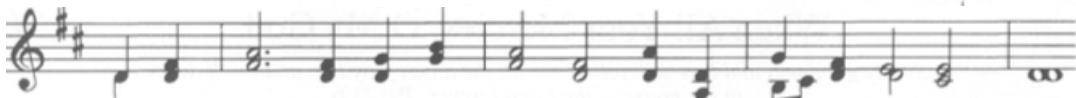
Thanks be to God.

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul

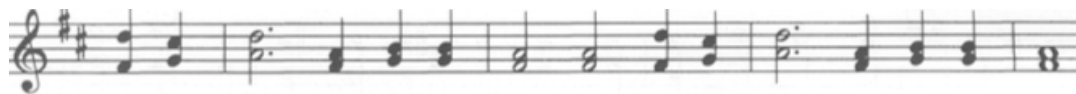
Text: Psalm 146; Tune: Gregorian Chant, Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839



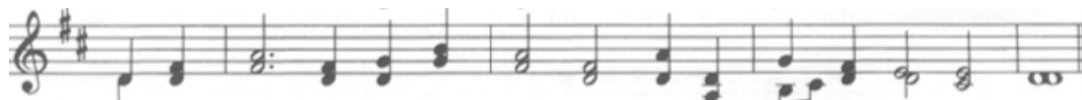
1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;
2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to be his aid;
3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing pris - 'ner free,
4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je - ho - vah praise;



I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.
he is blessed whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his God is stayed.
rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eye to see.
I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through all my days.



Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on man de - pend;
Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - at - ed, seas and all that they con - tain;
Well Je - ho - vah loves the righ - teous, and the strang - er he be - friends,
O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all a - ges he is King;



he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing, and his pur - pos - es shall end.
he de - liv - ers from op - pres - sion, righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.
helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow, judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
un - to him, your God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

The Celebrant prays

Let us pray.

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, by the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation offered to 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.**

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL

ISAIAH 55:1-11

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Celebrant prays

Let us pray.

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give the water of life to all who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT

EZEKIEL 36:24-28

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Come, Holy Ghost, our Hearts Inspire

Text: Charles Wesley, 1740, rev 1780. Music: Irish melody, 19th century.



1. Come, Ho - ly Ghost, our hearts in - spire, let
2. Come, Ho - ly Ghost, for, moved by thee, thy
3. Ex - pand thy wings, ce - les - tial Dove, brood
4. God, through him - self, we then shall know, if



us thine in - fluence prove, source of the old pro -
proph-ets wrote and spoke: un - lock the truth, thy -
o'er our na - ture's night; on our dis - or - dered
thou with - in us shine; and sound, with all thy



phet - ic fire, foun - tain of life and love.
self the key, un - seal the sa - cred book.
spir - its move, and let there now be light.
saints be - low, the depths of love di - vine.

The Celebrant prays

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you promise your faithful people new life in the water of Baptism: Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

JONAH AND THE FISH

JONAH 1:1-2:10

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

O Lord, My God, Most Earnestly

Psalm 63; Thomas Tallis, 1567, alt.



1. O Lord, my God, most ear-nest - ly I seek Your ho - ly face,
2. The lov - ing - kind - ness of my God is more than life to me,
3. Be - neath the sha - dow of Your wings I sing my joy and praise.



With - in Your house a - gain to see the glo - ries of Your grace.
So I will praise You all my days and pray con - tin - ual - ly.
Your right hand is my strong sup - port through trou - bled nights and days.



A - part from— You I long and thirst and naught can sat - is - fy;
In You my— soul is sat - is - fied, my dark - ness turns to light,
All those who— seek my life will fall; my life is in Your hand.



I wan - der— in a des - ert— land where all the streams are dry.
and joy - ful— med - i - ta - tions— fill the watch - es of the night.
God's king and— peo - ple will re - joice; in vic - t'ry they will stand.

The Celebrant prays

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The people stand. The Celebrant addresses the Congregation in these or similar words

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced the Devil and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

Do you, here in the presence of God and the Church, renew the solemn promises and vows made at your Baptism and commit yourself to keep them?

I do.

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

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

I renounce them.

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

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

I do.

Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

I do.

Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

The Celebrant continues

Let us now reaffirm our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

I do. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by 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.

Do you believe and trust in Holy Spirit?

I do. 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. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the head cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

A joyful fanfare may be played, and bells may be rung. The church is lighted, and the candles at the Altar may now be lighted from the Paschal Candle.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827; adapt. and harm. by Edward Hodges, 1796-1867



1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
2. Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born,
3. Christ is ris - en, Christ, the first-fruits of the ho - ly har - vest field,
4. Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en! Shed up - on us heav'n - ly grace,
5. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high!



sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal, on the ho - ly East - er morn.
which will all its full a - bun - dance at His sec - ond com - ing yield.
rain and dew and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of Thy face,
Al - le - lu - ia! to the Sav - ior who has gained the vic - to - ry!



He, who on the cross a vic - tim for the world's sal - va - tion bled,
Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by His might - y en - ter - prise;
Then the gold - en ears of har - vest will their heads be - fore Him wave,
that we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,
Al - le - lu - ia! to the Spir - it, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.
we with Him to life e - ter - nal by His res - ur - rec - tion rise.
rip - ened by His glo - rious sun - shine from the fur - rows of the grave.
and by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be ev - er, Lord, with Thee.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia to the Tri - une Maj - es - ty!

THE COLLECT

The Celebrant says to the People

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, you made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE EPISTLE LESSON

ROMANS 6:3-11

After the Lesson the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL



MATTHEW 28:1-10

All stand for the Gospel as the Priest reads, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel, the Priest says

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Blake Johnson

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world saying, "hear our prayer."

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

The leader will invite us to pray silently and then to pray aloud.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with your spirit.

THE SURSUM CORDA

The Celebrant says to the People

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

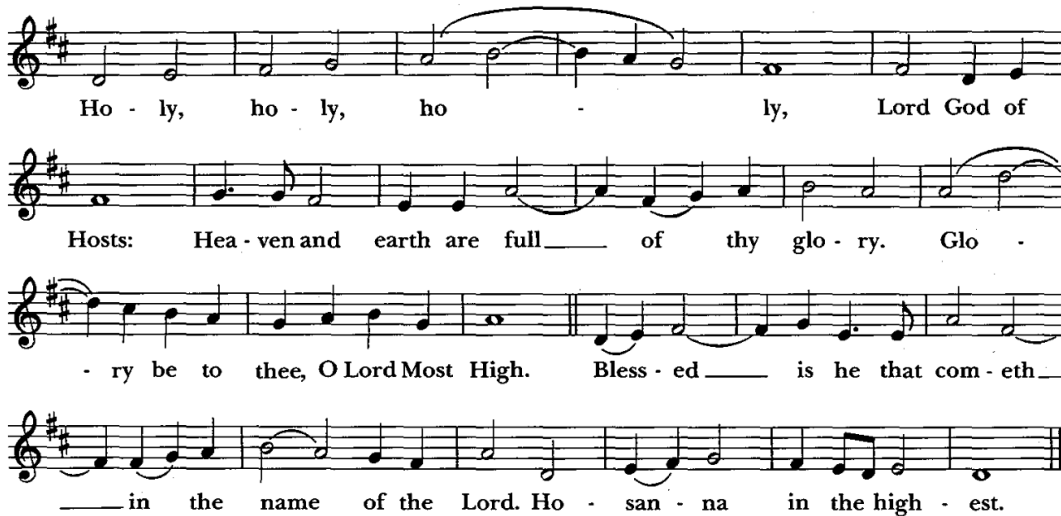
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968)

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

The Celebrant and the People say together

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed, once for all upon the Cross.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

I CORINTHIANS 5:7 (KJV)

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

To receive communion, come forward as directed by the usher. "Cross" the palms of your hands to receive bread from the priest. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

If you desire to receive wine, you may drink from the common cup or dip your wafer into the common cup.

If you do not desire to commune, but would like to receive prayer, cross your arms over your chest as you come forward, and the pastor will pray for you.

All baptized Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, and strive to walk in love and charity with their neighbors are welcome at this table.

Christ Is Risen

Vladimir Morosan (b. 1951), In an *American Folk Style*

1. **Not too fast, ♩ = c. 88**

Soprano
Alto

Vladimir Morosan (b. 1951)
In an American Folk Style

Christ is ris - en from the dead,
tram - pling down death by death, and up - on those
in the tombs be - stow - ing life.

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Text: Te Deum, 4th. cent.; vers. Ignaz Franz, c. 1774; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1853, alt.; Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774



1. Ho - ly God, we praise Your name; Lord of all, we
2. Hark, the glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3. Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train joins Your sa - cred
4. Ho - lv Fa - ther. Ho - lv Son. Ho - lv Spir - it.



bow be - fore You. Saints on earth Your scep - ter claim;
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
three we name You, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore You. In - fi - nite, Your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God, we claim You, and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main; ev - er - last - ing is Your reign.
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Praise the Savior Now and Ever

Words: Venantius Fortunatus, ca. 530-609; Tr. by Augustus Nelson, 1863-1949;

Music: HOLY MANNA, Attr. to William Moore, 1825; Arr. Benedict/Bradham, 2005, ©2006 Cardiphonia Music

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Praise the Savior Now and Ever'. It consists of four staves of music, each starting with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The music is written in a style that suggests it is for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The first staff begins with a measure number '5', the second with '9', and the third with '13'. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, often beamed together in groups, and rests. The overall mood is solemn and reverent.

Praise the Savior, now and ever; praise him, all beneath the skies

Self denying, suffering, dying, on the cross a sacrifice

Victory gaining, life obtaining, now in glory he doth rise!

Praise the Savior, now and ever; praise him, all beneath the skies

Our work faileth, Christ's availeth; he is all our righteousness

He, our Savior, has forever set us free from dire distress

Through his merit we inherit light, and peace, and happiness.

Our work faileth, Christ's availeth; he is all our righteousness.

Sin's bonds severed, we're delivered; Christ has crushed the serpent's head

Death no longer is the stronger; hell itself is captive led

Christ has risen from death's prison; o'er the tomb he light has shed.

Sin's bonds severed, we're delivered; Christ has crushed the serpent's head.

For his favor, praise forever unto God the Father sing

Praise the Savior, praise him ever, Son of God, our Lord and King

Praise the Spirit; through Christ's merit he doth us salvation bring.

For his favor, praise forever unto God the Father sing.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ: and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.

And now Father, send us out into the world to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Words: John of Damascus (ca. 675-749); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt., P.D.; Music: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872, P.D



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his
3 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry to our Lord im -



glad - ness! God has brought forth Is - ra - el
pri - son, and from three days' sleep in death
por - tal, nor the watch - ers, nor the seal,
mor - tal, who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars



in - to joy from sad - ness, loosed from Phar - aoh's
as a sun has ris - en. All the win - ter
hold you as a mor - tal: but to - day, a -
of the tomb's dark por - tal; Al - le - lu - ia!



bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
With the Son, God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - mois - tened foot
from the Light to whom we give
your deep peace, which ev - er - more
Al - le lu - ia! Yet a - gain



through the Red Sea wa - ters.
laud and praise un - dy - ing.
pass - es hu - man know - ing.
to the Spir - it rais - ing.

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.