

Mount Cross Lutheran Church

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The Great Vigil of Easter

April 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Greeting and Lighting of the Easter Fire (Video recorded at Mount Cross with Youth Group)

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

C **And also with you.**

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

The Easter fire is lit.

P Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Youth trace the inscription on the paschal candle.

P Christ, yesterday and today, ✠
the beginning and the ending. A Ω
To Christ belongs all time 2
and all the ages; 0
to Christ belongs glory and dominion 2
now and forever. 1

C **Amen.**

The presiding minister lights the paschal candle, using a stick or taper from the fire, and says:

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

A representative of the youth group lifts the candle so that all may see it.

Group 1 The light of Christ.

Group 2 Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet



1. Sound sal - va - tion's might - y trum-pet! An - gels, in glad cho - rus sing!
2. Sing, ex - ult, O ho - ly peo-ple, on you shines the Ris - en One!
3. On this night the He - brew peo-ple passed from slav - 'ry through the sea;
4. On this night God's bound-less mer-cy t'ward the hu - man fam - i - ly
5. Lord, re-ceive this East - er can-dle, flame un-dimmed by giv - ing light;



1. All that lives, pro-claim in joy now: Je - sus is our Ris - en King!
2. With full hearts and minds and voic - es praise the ev - er - last - ing Sun.
3. on this night the bap - tized faith - ful share in Je - sus' vic - to - ry.
4. shows the fault of our first par - ents hap - py in its rem - e - dy.
5. when your Son re - turns in glo - ry, may he find it burn-ing bright.



1. Earth, re-joyce in shin-ing splen-dor, all cre - a - tion bathed in light!
2. Ask we now for one an - oth - er grace to pray this East - er song,
3. Had he not come as re - deem - er, worth - less would our lives have been;
4. On this night the Star of Morn-ing, Christ, is ris - en from the dead;
5. May the fire that Je - sus kin - dled spread to earth's re - mot - est part;



1. Christ has con- quered, glo - ry fills you, ra - diance o - ver - comes the night.
2. faith in Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion, hope and love for - ev - er strong.
3. but his blood has paid our ran - som, free - ing us from chains of sin.
4. rec - on - ciled is all cre - a - tion, and to heav - en earth is wed.
5. may the Star of Morn-ing find it still a - blaze in ev - 'ry heart.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, © 1991, 2003, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
Music: HYMN TO JOY, 87 87 D, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796-1867.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



The Introduction

P Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The Story of Creation – Genesis 1:1-2:3 (Video presentation by Mount Cross youth and families)

Song - Psalm 104: “Lord, Send Out Your Spirit” (Cotter)

Psalm 104

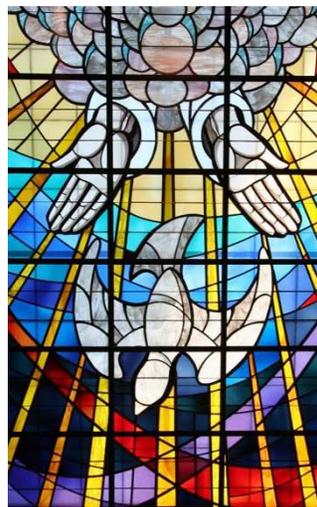
Jeanne Cotter

Lord, send out your Spirit and re -
new the face of the earth.

Lord, send out your Spirit and re -
new the face of the earth.

English translation of the psalm response from the *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969
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Music © 1995 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Silence follows.



God's Hands and the Holy Spirit, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56826> [retrieved March 25, 2021]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/basta-cosi/1547659026/> - Jean Bean.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea - Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 - (Video presentation)

Song - "Through the Red Sea" (Knox/LLANFAIR)

1. Through the Red Sea brought at last, God has freed us!
2. Like the cloud that over-head, God has freed us!
3. In that cloud and in that sea, God has freed us!

E - gypt's chains be - hind we cast, God has freed us!
Through the bil - lows Is - ra - el led, God has freed us!
Bur - ied and bap - tized are we, God has freed us!

Deep and wide now flows the tide, God has freed us!
By his tomb Christ makes us room, God has freed us!
Earth - ly night brought us the light, God has freed us!

Sev - 'ring us from bond-age past, God has freed us!
Souls re - stor - ing from the dead, God has freed us!
Which is ours e - ter - nal ly, God has freed us!

Words: Ronald A. Knox (1888-1957), adapt. Music: Robert Williams (1781-1821), LLANFAIR (77. 77 with Alleluias).

Silence follows.



The Israelites after Crossing the Red Sea,
Hans Jordaens III, 1620's
The Hermitage, St. Petersburg

A New Heart and a New Spirit – Ezekiel 36:24-28 (Video presentation)

Song – “As the Deer Longs” (Hurd)

Refrain



As the deer longs for run - ning streams, so I long,
so I long, so I long for you.

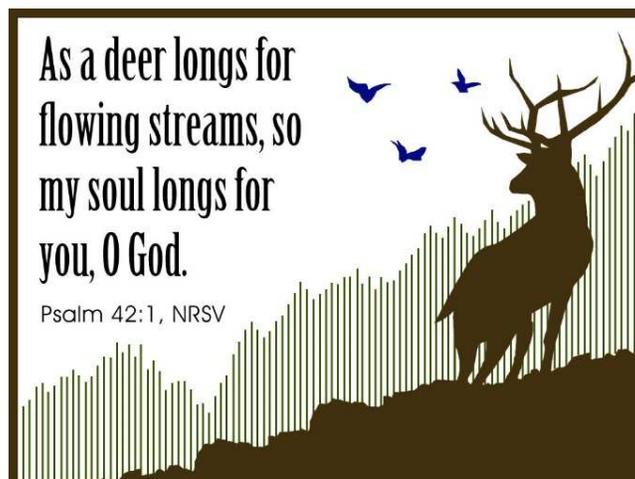
Verses*

1. Athirst my soul for you, the God who is my life!
When shall I see, when shall I see, see the face of God?
2. Continually the foe delights in taunting me:
“Where is God, where is your God?” Where, O where are you?
3. Defend me, God; send forth your light and your truth.
They will lead me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling place.
4. Then I shall go unto the altar of my God.
Praising you, O my joy and gladness, I shall praise your name.

**Beginning with verse 2, refrain and verse may be sung together.*

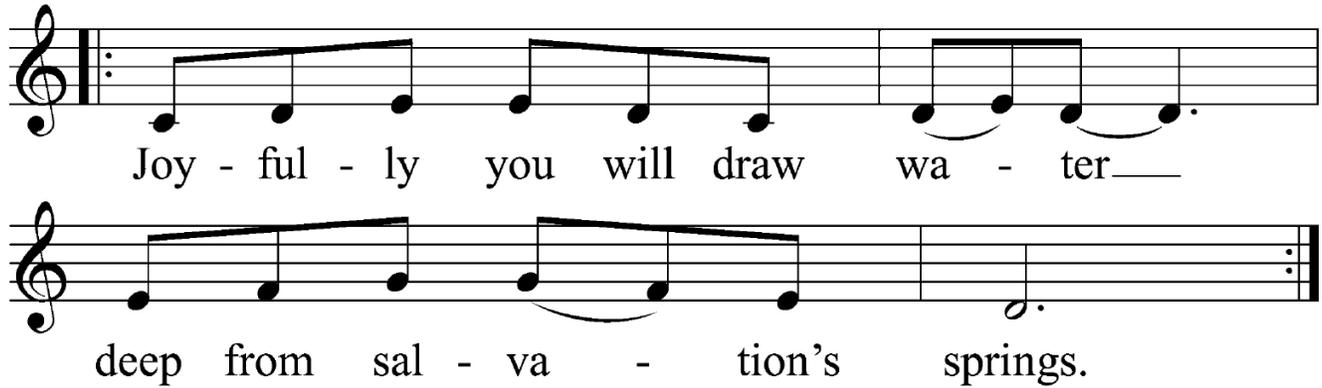
Text: Psalm 42:2, 3, 4; 43:3, 4; Bob Hurd
Music: Bob Hurd
© 1988, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP.

Silence follows.



Salvation Offered Freely to All – Isaiah 55:1-11 (Video storytelling by Paul Amendt)

Song - “Joyfully You Will Draw Water” (Psallite)



Joy - ful - ly you will draw wa - ter
deep from sal - va - tion's springs.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics 'Joy - ful - ly you will draw wa - ter'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'deep from sal - va - tion's springs.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with quarter and eighth notes.

Music and text from *Psallite*, © 2005, The Collegeville Composers Group. All rights reserved.
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Silence follows.

THE GOSPEL OF EASTER

Celebrant

Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ri - sen!

Congregation

The Lord is ri - sen in - deed. Al - le - lu - ia.

Hymn of Praise – “God’s Paschal Lamb” (Daw/SINE NOMINE)

1. God's Pas - chal Lamb is sac - ri - ficed for us;
2. Now Christ is raised and will not die a - gain;
3. In Christ we see the first fruits of the dead;

There - fore with joy we keep the Eas - ter feast; for -
 death has no more do - min - ion o - ver him; Through
 though Ad - am's sin had doomed all flesh to die, in

sak - ing sin, we share the bread of — truth. Al -
 him we die to sin and live to — God. Al -
 Christ's new life shall all be made a - live. Al -

- le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1987, Hope Publishing Co. Music: *Sine Nomine*, Ralph Vaughan Williams,
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Collect for the Vigil of Easter

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, who 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.

C Amen.

Gospel – Mark 16:1-8

P The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

C **Glory to you, O Christ.**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Reflection – Pastor Julie Morris



Thanksgiving at the Font

Water is poured into the font during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



Renewal of Baptismal Promises / Affirmation of Baptism

Gayle Johnson presents Nora Fajnor for affirmation of baptism.

Gayle: I present Nora Fajnor, who desires to make public affirmation of her baptism.

All are invited to join with Nora Fajnor as she affirms her baptism.

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

Let us pray.

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

C **Amen.**

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C **I renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

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

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

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another
in your life in Christ?

C **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us pray.

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

C **Amen.**

Melissa Henry presents Nora with a prayer shawl representing the joy of the congregation as she returns to the Mount Cross community and our care and prayers as she prepares to donate a kidney on April 6.

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Prayers of Intercession

A Washed and renewed in the mercy of God that endures forever, we pray this night for the church, the world, and all creation.

You bring us from death to life with Christ. Fill and enlighten the newly baptized, enliven all the baptized so that your church may be a sign of resurrection in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

At creation you brought forth order and life. Bring life anew to all creation: sky, earth, and seas; sun, moon, and stars; plants and animals. Teach us to treasure and defend what you have declared to be good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As you delivered your people, deliver all from bondage. Bring an end to war and brutality. Raise up leaders who listen for wisdom's voice. Cause righteousness to spring up among the nations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

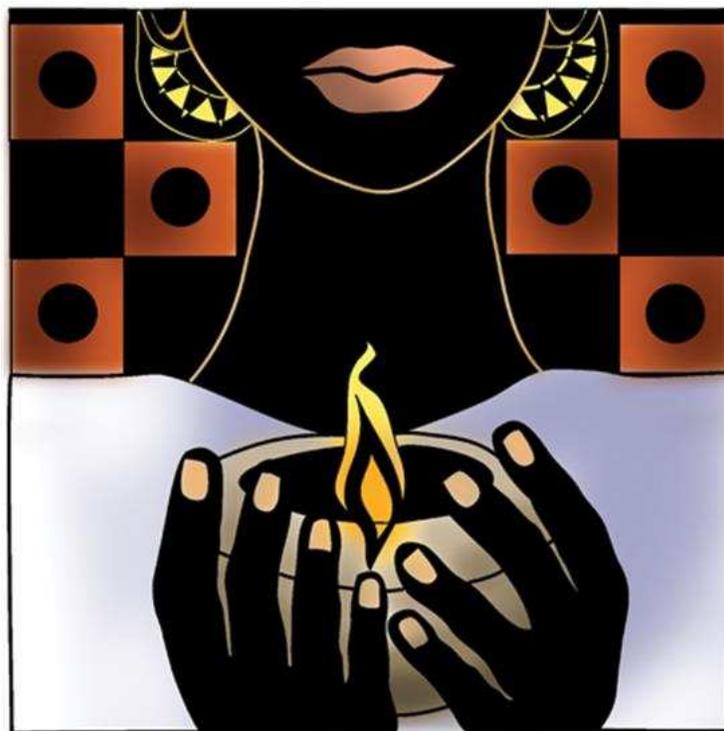
A Your power extends to the depths of the grave. Bring hope and peace to all who are in the depths of sorrow or the fires of suffering. Heal all who are sick, especially those on our Mount Cross and St. Columba's prayer lists, and comfort the grieving. Strengthen us to endure the trials of living in this time of pandemic and guide us in making wise choices to stay safe as we move forward. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the first light of dawn Jesus' resurrection was revealed. Guard all who keep vigil in the night: tending to the sick or ensuring public safety, working, or worrying. As they await the morning, may hope dawn upon them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You drew the amazed, the terrified, and the weeping to the empty tomb. Gather us with your people of all times and places to wonder at your power and rejoice in your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, Living God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one with whom we have been raised to new life, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

C **Amen.**



Blessing

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Song – “Christ, Be Our Light” (Farrell)

Verses

1. This is the night of new be - gin - nings.
2. This is the night Christ our re - deem - er
3. Now will the fire kin - dled in dark - ness
4. Sing of the hope deep - er than dy - ing.
5. In - to this world morn - ing is break - ing.

1. This is the night when heav - en meets earth.
2. rose from the grave tri - um - phant and free,
3. burn to dis - pel the shad - ows of night.
4. Sing of the pow'r strong - er than death.
5. All of God's peo - ple, lift up your voice.

1. This is the night filled with God's glo - ry,
2. leav - ing the tomb of e - vil and dark - ness,
3. Star of the morn - ing, Je - sus our Sav - ior,
4. Sing of the love end - less as heav - en,
5. Cry out with joy, tell out the sto - ry,

1. prom - ise of our new birth! _____
2. emp - ty for all to see. _____
3. you are the world's true light! _____
4. dawn - ing through - out the earth. _____
5. all of the earth re - joice. _____

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gath - ered to - day. _____

Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude - Brett Hanley

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Thanks to all who participated in our video presentations!

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4 – 9:30 A.M. OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Celebrate the joy of the Resurrection with 9:30 a.m. Easter worship outdoors at Mount Cross or St. Columba's. Drive-through Communion from St. Columba's from 10:30-11:30 a.m., or Sanctuary Communion reception available at Mount Cross from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Tune into [St. Columba's](https://www.facebook.com/St-Columbas-Episcopal-Church-118429354839140) or [Mount Cross'](https://www.facebook.com/MountCross) websites, Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/St-Columbas-Episcopal-Church-118429354839140> or <https://www.facebook.com/MountCross>) for these services, or watch them at a later time, at those sites or on our YouTube channels <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw8L2LyeUIkvYjbnQUfiIJw> or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaLKW7cvLPO2v8jlrQPq8rw>.

Christ
is
Risen!



Mary of Magdala at the Empty Tomb window at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Charleston, South Carolina. Attributed to the Quaker City Glass Company of Philadelphia, 1912. (Creative Commons usage, Wikimedia.org, Cadetgray, March 7, 2011)