

**Easter Vigil**  
**April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Alliance Worship**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**9844 SW Greenville Road**  
**Greenville, MI 48838**

**Settlement Lutheran Church**  
**1031 S. Johnson Road**  
**Gowen, MI 49326**

[stpaulsettlementelca.org](http://stpaulsettlementelca.org)

**Sharing the joy of Christ.**

**Transformed by God's  
grace we share  
the love of Christ**



## GATHERING - SERVICE OF LIGHT

*(Weather permitting, the service begins outside. All gather in silence.  
Each worshiper is given an unlit candle.)*

### \*GREETING

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

**And also with you.** (arms out)

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, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

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

**Amen.**

### \*PROCESSIONAL to back hall

Christ, yesterday and today,	+	
the beginning	A	
and the ending.	Ω	
To Christ belongs all time		2
and all the ages;	0	
to Christ belongs glory and dominion		2
now and forever.	5	

**Amen.**

The light of our Christ, rising in glory, dispels the darkness of our hearts and minds. \* *Indicates to please rise as you are able.*

## PROCESSION

*The procession begins in the back hallway;  
light from the paschal candle is passed until all the candles are lit.  
Pastoral leaders and the Assembly will recite,  
“The light of Christ” dialogue **three times** during the procession.*

The light of Christ . . . **Thanks be to God.**

The light of Christ . . . **Thanks be to God.**

The light of Christ . . . **Thanks be to God.**

## \*EASTER PROCLAMATION

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God’s throne! Jesus Christ is risen! Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation. Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever. Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God’s people.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin. For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain, by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the night.

**This is the night.**

in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.

This is the night.

**This is the night.**

in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.

This is the night.

**This is the night.**

in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.

This is the night.

**This is the night**

in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph. O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell!

This is the night.

**This is the night**

of which it is written: "The night is as clear as the day," and, "then shall my night be turned into day." The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness; washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride. Therefore, in this night of grace, receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, reflected in the burning of this candle. We sing the glories of this pillar of fire, the brightness of which is not diminished even when its light is divided and borrowed. For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants, have made for the substance of this candle.

This is the night.

**This is the night**

Please continue to the next page...

In which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine. We, therefore, pray to you, O God, that this candle, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of night and be mingled with the lights of heaven. May Christ the Morning Star find it burning, that Morning Star who never sets, that Morning Star who, rising from the grave, faithfully sheds light on the whole human race. And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection your whole church, giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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

## **WORD - VIGIL READINGS**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 1:1-2:4a    *Creation*

*Silent reflection*

**SECOND READING:** *Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21*

*Deliverance at the Red Sea*

*Silent reflection*

Please continue to the next page...

**THIRD READING:** Isaiah 55:1-11

*Salvation freely offered to all*

*Silent reflection*

**FOURTH READING:** Daniel 3:1-29

*Deliverance from fiery furnace*

*Silent reflection*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING:** Romans 6:3-11

A reading from Romans chapter 6   **Thanks be to God.**

,,,. Word of God, word of life.   **Thanks be to God.**

**EASTER PREPARATION/OPENING OF TOMB**

*(The bells toll while the altar area is redressed. When this is completed, there is a time of silent reflection. The silence is interrupted by a loud noise symbolizing that a great stone has rolled away to reveal the open tomb which allows light to once again illuminate the world. The lights in the church are turned on, the altar candles are lit, the church bells are rung, and the assembly joins in the rejoicing.)*

# EASTER PROCESSIONAL "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" ELW 369



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

## **GOSPEL READING: John 20:1-18**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



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

## **SERMON**

### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

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.

**Amen.**

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?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Please continue to the next page...

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

You have made 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?

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

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

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

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

**Amen.**

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

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

Let us pray.

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

**Amen.**

*\*The word "catholic" with a small "c" means Christian.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!” ELW 377



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this most holy night, our Lord has acted. Raised with Christ, let us boldly offer our prayers for the whole people of God.

*A brief silence.*

Let your holy church rejoice, for Christ has risen! We rejoice. Renew us all in our baptismal covenant and put your Spirit within us.

Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

All creation bears your image and sings your praise. Preserve the works of your hands - day and night, sea and land, plants and trees, birds, and every living creature. Inspire in us a renewed care for the world you have called very good.

Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

You shatter tyranny and oppression and liberate your people from bondage. Rise up with might against tyrants and dictators. Grant wisdom to world leaders, that your reign of justice and freedom comes to all.

Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

You break the chains of death and bring us up from the grave. Enter places of despair and breathe new life where hope wanes. Reconcile fractured relationships. Rescue us from all that ensnares us. Enliven our dry bones so we can live.

Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

You give your people a heart of flesh in place of a heart of stone. Soften our hearts to the needs around us. Strengthen the ministries of care of this congregation and turn us outward to love and serve our neighbors.

Risen Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Please continue to the next page...

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. With thanksgiving, we lift our voices with the saints of every time and place around God's eternal throne.

Risen Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God;  
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.** (*hands out*)

## **OFFERING & OFFERTORY**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.  
In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

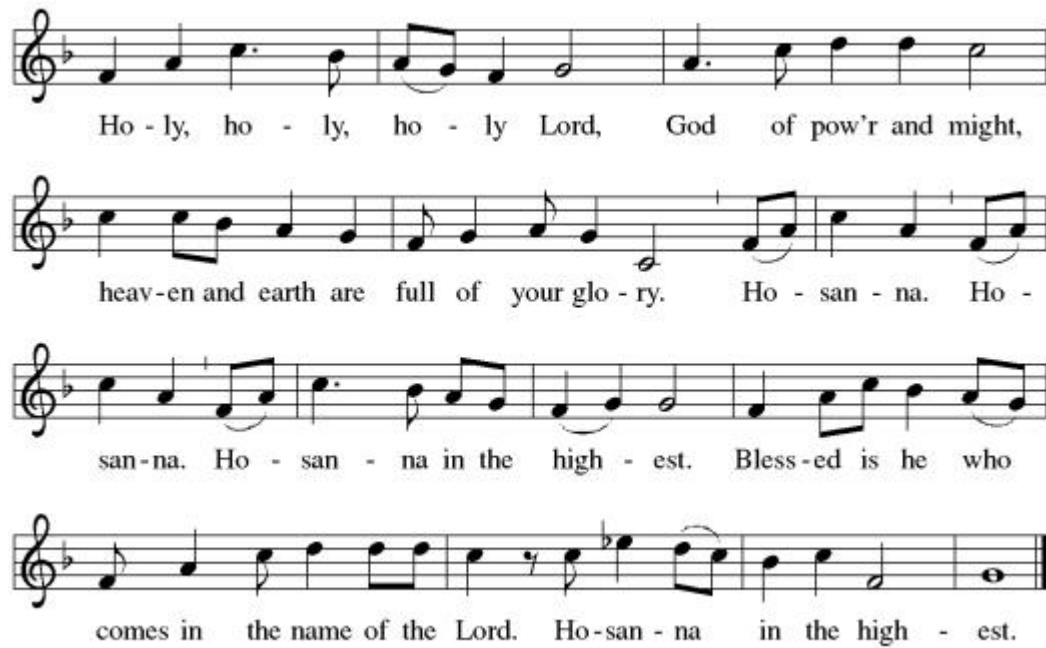
## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the *\*paschal* feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*\*Paschal means Easter*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ dwells with us here.  
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

## COMMUNION

*All are welcome to come to share in Holy Communion at God's Table.*

As you receive the bread and wine:  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Each person may respond: **Amen.**



## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.



## ELW 382 CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

### Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!



1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!  
2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;  
3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay  
4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re- turns to life once more;  
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;  
All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.  
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

#### *Refrain*



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

## FINAL TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG ELW 385

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

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

## DISMISSAL

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Please join us for dessert and fellowship!*

