

VIGIL OF EASTER: *For the Resurrection of Our Lord*

The service begins in darkness. This is the final service of the three holiest days in the church year and the first service of Easter.

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.**

INTRODUCTION

PRAYER

Let us pray together: **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.**

PREPARATION OF THE CANDLE

We trace a cross ☩ on the candle

Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever. **Amen.**

We light the candle

The light of Christ, rising in glory,

dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

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

We lift the candle a first time

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

We lift the candle a second time

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

We lift the candle a third time

We place the candle on the table

EASTER PROCLAMATION

DIALOGUE

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!

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!

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.**

Alleluia! Happy Easter! Alleluia! HAPPY EASTER!!!