



Return of the Light

April 20, 2025

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Cass City, Michigan*

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The Return of the Light

Throughout the Good Friday service the gradual extinguishing of candles and lights reflected the words of John 1:9-11: "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him."

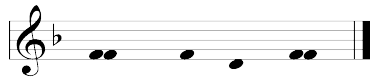
The first Service of Easter begins with the **Return of the Light** as the lighted Paschal Candle is carried in procession into the dark nave, symbolizing the Resurrection victory of Christ, the Light of the World, as described in John 1:5: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Each worshiper has received a candle. As the procession moves through the nave the light will be shared, pew by pew. The service begins in darkness.

**The procession enters the nave.
The congregation faces the candle.**



The light of Christ.

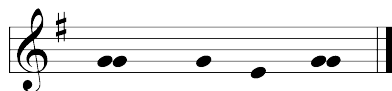


Thanks be to God.

When the procession reaches the center of the nave:



The light of Christ.

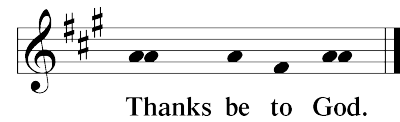


Thanks be to God.



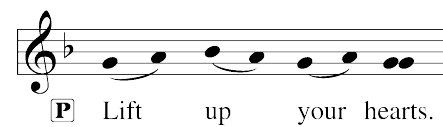
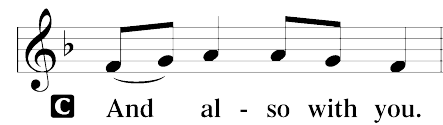
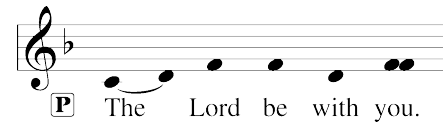
***Join us following the service for
breakfast in the fellowship hall.***

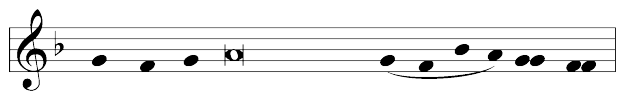
When the procession reaches the front of the nave:



The pastor chants the Easter Proclamation.

P: Rejoice now, . . . praises of God's faithful people.





P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This Is the Feast p. 155



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb — who was slain has be -

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my
forgiveness but God's?

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ
I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and
of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Service of the Sacrament p. 160-163

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymns:

463 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Stand

Post Communion Canticle:

Thank the Lord p. 164

Post-Communion Collect p. 166

Benediction p. 166

Closing Hymn : 478 The Day of Resurrection

Catechism

My First Catechism pg 37

P What is the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed?

C And 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 What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed p. 158


Prayer of the Church

Offering

Offertory p. 159

Confession of Sins

C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



Final Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Candles are extinguished.

Salutation and Collect of the Day p. 156

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Job 19:23–27

[Job said,] "Oh that my words were written!

Oh that they were inscribed in a book!

Oh that with an iron pen and lead

they were engraved in the rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,

and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

And after my skin has been thus destroyed,

yet in my flesh I shall see God,

whom I shall see for myself,

and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

My heart faints within me!"

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:51–57

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory?”

O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Hymn: 467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

Holy Gospel: John 20:1–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 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.” So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the

linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 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.” Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” 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.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for 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.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today