

# Vigil of Easter

## March 30, 2024



**ZION**  
Ministries Under the Cross

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# Welcome to Zion!

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*Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,  
“I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18a)*

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

## Get Connected at Zion

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The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

## Children in Worship

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Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

## Giving

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We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



## Livestreaming

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Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God’s radical welcome to all people, because we’re all created in God’s image.

*This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed!*  
*Alleluia!*

## **We Gather & Kindle the Light of Christ**

*The service begins in darkness; the lighting of a new fire takes place.  
All gather in silence.*

### **APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER**

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.**

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.**

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

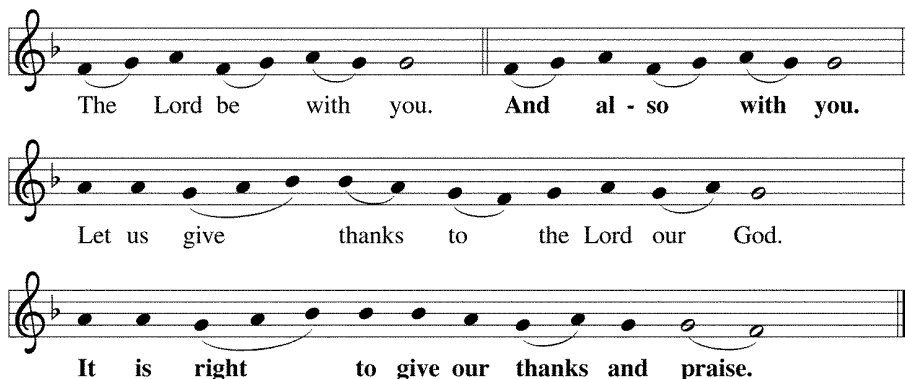
### **PROCESSION**



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

## EASTER PROCLAMATION

*This triumphant hymn is the prelude to the Easter celebration. It is a dramatic invitation to join the Church in joy and jubilation.*



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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...**Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## We Hear & Respond to God's Word

*The readings attempt to capture our salvation history. We start with Creation and readings from the Hebrew Scriptures, continuing to the proclamation of the Resurrection from the Gospel according to John.*

### READING

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

#### **Creation**

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### RESPONSE

Hymn #861

"When Long Before Time" ("The Singer and the Song")

### PRAYER

Let us pray...Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

# READING

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

## Deliverance at the Red Sea

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

# RESPONSE

“Who is Like Our God”



¿Quién, quién, quién co - mo Jeho - vá, que con su po -  
Who, who, who is like our God, who, with might - y



der el mar a - brió? ¿Quién, quién, quién co - mo Jeho -  
hand, did part the sea? Who, who, who is like our



vá, que con su po - der el mar a - brió?  
God, who, with might - y hand, did part the sea?



Oi - rán las na - cio - nes lo que él hi - zo;  
All the na - tions will hear what God has done for us,



tem - bla - rán cuan - do ve - an sus pro - di gios.  
and will trem - ble to see such signs and won - ders.



Su pue - blo le a - la - ba - rá, con pan - de - ro dan - za - rá,  
Let God's peo - ple praise and sing, dance with joy and tam - bou - rines.



y di - rán, “¿Quién, quién co - mo Jeho - vá?”  
Let them say, “Who, who is like our God?”

## PRAYER

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, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## READING

Isaiah 55:1-11

### ***Salvation Freely Offered to All***

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## RESPONSE

See Insert

“Come to the Water”

## PRAYER

Let us pray...Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## READING

Daniel 3:1-29

### ***Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace***

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## RESPONSE

Hymn #731

“Earth and All Stars”

## PRAYER

Let us pray...Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 6:1-11

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “This is the Feast” (pp. 140-141)

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

John 20:1-18

*Before the reading:* The Holy Gospel according to John...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:* The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## GOD’S MESSAGE FOR ALL

### We Affirm Our Baptismal Promises

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## LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Hymn #237

## INTRODUCTION

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. **Amen.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH & AFFIRMATION

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? **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.**

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.**

## **HYMN**

Hymn #446

"I'm Goin' on a Journey"

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

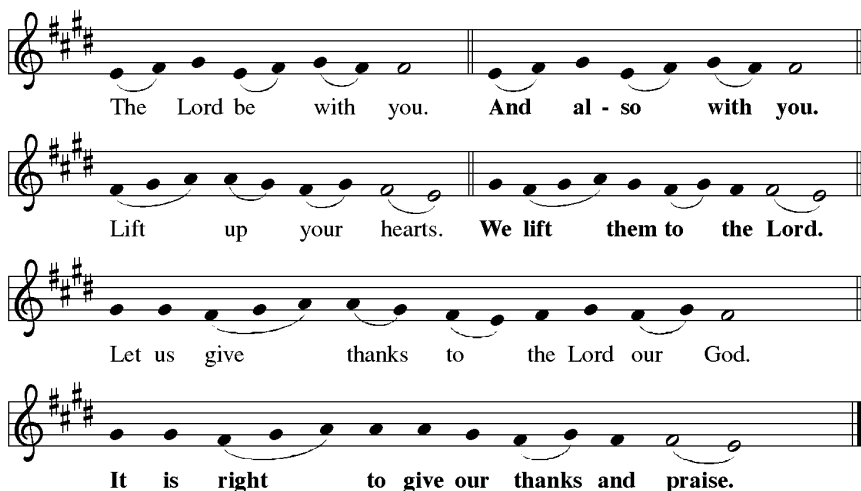
### **SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**



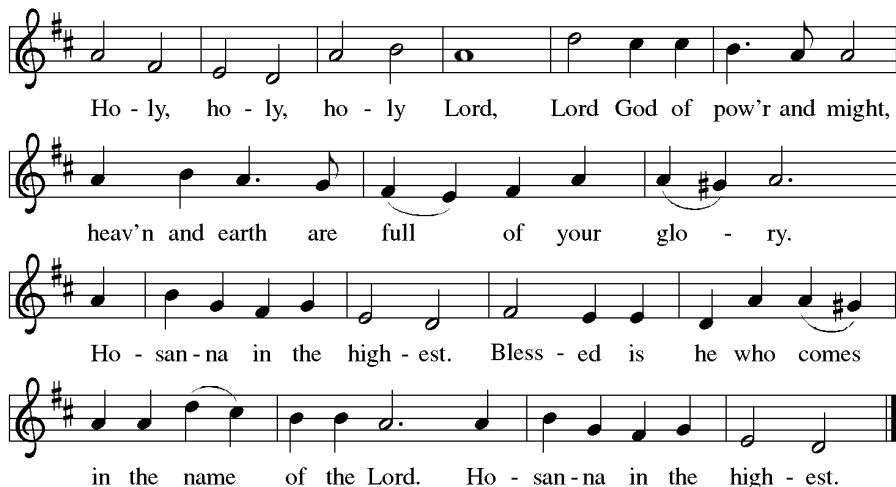
# We Feast at the Lord's Table

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And also 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.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

Remembering his death, we cry out: **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout: **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead: **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Music by Cantor Peter J. Rizzo

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your  
name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your  
will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.  
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our  
sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -  
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from  
e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the  
king-dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for  
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

## SHARING THE MEAL

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

“O Church, Arise”

See Insert

## We Are Sent into the World

### BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together...**Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Go now as God's chosen witnesses to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him. Do not look for him among the dead but be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

May God raise you from all that would entomb you;

May Christ Jesus † call you by name and go ahead of you;

And may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Hymn #376

"Thine is the Glory"

## DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace.

Share the good news that Christ is risen! **Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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## Holy Communion at Zion

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Christ's table is open to all! We offer grape juice for those who desire. If, for reasons of conscience or health, you are unable to receive either the bread or the wine, please know that the Church affirms the full presence of Christ in each element.

## O Church, Arise

O church, arise, and put your armor on;  
Hear the call of Christ our captain.  
For now the weak can say that they are strong  
In the strength that God has given.  
With shield of faith and belt of truth,  
We'll stand against the devil's lies.  
An army bold, whose battle cry is love,  
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,  
But to rage against the captor;  
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,  
We will fight with faith and valor.  
When faced with trials on every side,  
We know the outcome is secure.  
And Christ will have the prize for which He died:  
An inheritance of nations.

### Chorus:

**Arise, shine for your light has come**  
**Arise, shine for the Risen Son**  
**Lift your eyes, we are His radiant bride**  
**Arise, o church arise!**

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet,  
As the Son of God is stricken;  
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,  
For the Conqueror has risen!  
And as the stone is rolled away,  
And Christ emerges from the grave,  
This victory march continues till the day  
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride;  
Give grace for every hurdle.  
That we may run with faith to win the prize  
Of a servant good and faithful.  
As saints of old, still line the way,  
Retelling triumphs of His grace,  
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day  
When with Christ we stand in Glory.

# Come to the Water



1. O let all who thirst, let them come to the  
 2. And let all who seek, let them come to the  
 3. And let all who toil, let them come to the  
 4. And let all the poor, let them come to the



wa - ter. And let all who have noth - ing,  
 wa - ter. And let all who have noth - ing,  
 wa - ter. And let all who are wea - ry,  
 wa - ter. Bring the ones who are lad - en,



let them come to the Lord: With-out mon-ey,  
 let them come to the Lord: With-out mon-ey,  
 let them come to the Lord: All who la - bor,  
 bring them all to the Lord: Bring the chil - dren



with-out price. Why should you pay the price,  
 with-out strife. Why should you spend your life,  
 with-out rest. How can your soul find rest,  
 with-out might. Eas - y the load and light:



ex - cept for the Lord?  
 ex - cept for the Lord?  
 ex - cept for the Lord?  
 7 come to the Lord.