



**Welcome to St. Luke's Church
Saturday, April 19, 2025**

Easter Vigil

**Our Vision:
To Know God and To Make Him Known**

*Visitors are not expected to participate in the offering.
We hope you enjoy visiting with us today. Please come again soon.*

www.stlukesakron.com

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: sanctify this new fire, we pray, and so set us aflame with the fire of your love, that with pure hearts and kindled affections, we may attain to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Deacon: The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Deacon: The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Deacon: The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet

Deacon: Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Deacon: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Deacon: It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, the very Lamb of God, whose blood marks the doorposts of believers and makes us holy.

This is the night when you brought our forebears, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night when with a pillar of fire you banished the darkness of our iniquity.

This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

O wonderful providence of Adam's sin destroyed completely by the death of Christ. O happy fault, which gained for us so great and glorious a Redeemer.

This is the night of which it is written: the night shall be as bright as the day.

How holy is this night when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night when earth and heaven are joined, and Man is reconciled to God.

Therefore, O holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor, the gift of your most holy Church. May it mingle with the lights of heaven, and shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning - he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Lessons

Celebrant: Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, remembering how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that God may bring to completion in each of us the saving work he has begun.

The Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reading from the Psalms

Psalms 104:1-13

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Silence

Celebrant: O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Fall

Genesis 3

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 32

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Silence

Celebrant: O God, you sent your blessed Son, the seed of the woman, that he might crush the serpent's head and make all creation new: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Flood

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-20, 9:8-13

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 46

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Silence

Celebrant: Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through the merits of him who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-15:1

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Song of Moses

Supplemental Canticle 5

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Silence

Celebrant: 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, to be a sign for us of the salvation offered to all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me

Supplement Canticle 8

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Silence

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you promise your faithful people new life in the water of Baptism: Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Jonah and the Fish

Jonah 1:1-2:10

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 130

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Silence

Celebrant: Almighty God, by the resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

“Graves Into Gardens”

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
Are never enough

Then You came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied
Here in Your love

Chorus: Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all
And You still call me friend

Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley
And there's not a place Your mercy and grace
Won't find me again (Chorus)

Bridge 1:

You turn mourning to dancing, You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory, You're the only one who can

Bridge 2:

You turn graves into gardens, You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways, You're the only one who can

Brandon Lake | Chris Brown | Steven Furtick | Tiffany Hudson © 2019 Music by
Elevation Worship Publishing, Maverick City Publishing Worldwide, Bethel
Music Publishing CCLI License # 73146

The Easter Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

[A joyful fanfare may be played, and bells may be rung.]

“Our Great God”

Eternal God, unchanging
Mysterious and unknown.
Your boundless love unfailing
In grace and mercy shown.
Bright seraphim in endless flight
Around Your glorious throne.
They raise their voices day and night
In praise to You alone.

Chorus:

Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!
Hallelujah! Glory be to our great God!

Lord, we are weak and frail
Helpless in the storm.
Surround us with Your angels
Hold us in Your arms.
Our cold and ruthless enemy
His pleasure is our harm.
Rise up, oh Lord, and he will flee
Before our Sovereign God. (Chorus)

Let every creature in the sea and every flying bird;
Let every mountain, every field and valley of the earth;
Let all the moons and all the stars in all the universe
Sing praises to the Living God,
Who rules them by His word. (Chorus)

Fernando Ortega | Mac Powell © 2002 Word Music, LLC, New Spring,
Dejamesolo Music CCLI License # 73146

The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: O God, you 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.

All: Amen.

The Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

**Sung: Alleluia! Alleluia! Opening our hearts to him
Singing Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus is our King**

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 28:1-10.

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At the end of the reading:

Deacon: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Sung: Alleluia! Alleluia! Opening our hearts to him
Singing Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus is our King**

The Message

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant: Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death and raised with him to newness of life.

I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced the devil and all his works and promised to serve God faithfully in his one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

Do you, here in the presence of God and the Church, renew the solemn promises and vows made at your Baptism and commit yourself to keep them?

All: I do.

Celebrant: Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

Celebrant: Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

All: I renounce them.

Celebrant: Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

All: I renounce them.

Celebrant: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

All: I do.

Celebrant: Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

All: I do.

Celebrant: Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

All: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Celebrant: Let us now reaffirm our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

Celebrant: Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All: I do. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

All: I do. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All: I do. 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. Amen.

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Deacon: Rejoicing in the Power of the resurrection, let us pray for the Church and the World as our hearts and voices proclaim our desire to see your risen presence move in our midst.

Risen Lord, we thank you for conquering sin and death and we pray that the world would experience the freedom and cleansing power that comes to us through your spirit.

We pray that your peace, joy, and presence would result in a church that reflects these things to a world that needs to experience the grace and mercy of your cross and resurrection.

Pray for the World. Please add here your prayers and intercessions for the world.

Deacon: We pray for an outpouring of your resurrection power and spirit upon our archbishop, our bishop, our priests, and deacons. We pray especially for our Bishops as they select our new Archbishop in June. Pray for the church that we may know Christ and make him known.

Pray for the Church. Please add here your prayers and intercessions for the church.

Deacon: Lord, help us to be children of your word. We Pray that you would empower us to witness daily to your good news, and how your word fills and guides our days. Lord, help us to proclaim your truth.

Pray for all who proclaim your Gospel. Please add your prayers for preachers, teachers, and evangelists.

Deacon: We pray for believers and missionaries who are persecuted for their faith.

Pray for the persecuted. Please add your prayers for those who are persecuted throughout the world.

Deacon: We Pray that our nation would seek and follow you. Lord, we pray for our President, Governor, and all who lead us in public service. May they seek to serve your kingdom purposes and honor your name.

Pray for our nation's leadership. Please add your prayers for our nation.

Deacon: We Pray for those who are sick, the needy and all who need your healing. Risen Lord, meet each person in their place of need in your perfect will and timing.

Pray for those in need. Please add your prayer for those whom the Lord has placed on your heart.

Deacon: We pray for those who have lost loved ones. Lord as we live in the power of your resurrection, teach us to long for your heavenly restoration and joy.

Pray with thanksgiving for those who have entered your glory. Please add the names of those who have gone to be with the Lord.

Deacon: Father God, we trust in the power you have given us over sin and death through your cross. We know the truth of your resurrection and we seek to live through the power of your spirit. Hear our prayers and respond to them as may be best for us. May our hearts and minds would be aligned with your will as we pray to you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Confession and Absolution of Sin

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins to the Lord.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Comfortable Words

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15)

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)

The Peace

Deacon: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Exchange with one another the Lord's Peace.

The Offertory *(Tithes and offerings are collected at this time)*

Celebrant: Our offertory sentences are from scripture. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

"Revelation Song"

Jennie Lee Riddle © 2004 Gateway Create Publishing CCLI License # 73146

Doxology *[All rise]*

Sung: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow**
 Praise Him all creatures here below
 Praise him above ye heavenly host
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken © Words & Music: Public Domain Music CCLI# 73146

Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

All: And of Your own have we given You.

The Great Thanksgiving

[We invite all baptized Christians to join us at the Lord's table. We offer communion in the form of bread, wafer, gluten-free wafer, or individually packaged juice and wafer. Once received, step left to drink from the communal cup, or step to the right to intinct (dip) the wafer.]

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

**Sung: Holy (Holy) Holy (Holy) Lord God Almighty
Heaven (Heaven) And Earth (And Earth)
Are full of your glory
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest (In the highest)
Hosanna, Hosanna to the Lord
Blessed is he who comes
In the Name of the Lord
Hosanna, Hosanna to the Lord**

The Prayer of Consecration

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son into the world for our salvation.

By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved.

By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory; that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

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

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Mystery of Faith

Deacon: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy sacrament, and be made one body with him, so that he may dwell in us and we in him. And bring us with all your saints into the fullness of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord:

All: Face to Face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray

**All: Our Father Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom the power and the glory
Forever and ever. Amen**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Prayer of Humble Access

All: We do not presume to come to this, your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. Apart from your grace, we are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Agnus Dei

**Sung: Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.**

Betty Carr Pulkingham © Words: Public Domain Music: 1974 Celebration
CCLI License # 73146

Celebrant: The gifts of God, for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Music During Communion:

“Behold Him”

He who was before there was light
Walked across the pages of time
He who made every living thing, Behold Him

He who heard humanity's cry
Left His throne to wake as a child
He became like the least of us, Behold Him

Chorus 1: Jesus Son of God Messiah
The Lamb the roaring Lion
Oh be still and behold Him

He who dined with sinners and saints
Healed the blind the lost and the lame
Even now He is in our midst, Behold Him

He who chose a criminal's end
Paid with blood to settle our debt
Buried death as He rose to life, Behold Him

Chorus 2: Jesus Son of God Messiah
The Lamb the roaring Lion
Oh be still and behold Him
Jesus Alpha and Omega
Our God the risen Savior
Oh be still and behold Him

Bridge: Holy holy holy is the Lord God Almighty
Worthy worthy worthy to receive all praise

Mitch Wong | Paul Baloche © 2019 A Wong Made Write Publishing; Integrity
Worship Music; Integrity's Praise! Music; Leadworship Songs CCLI License #
73146

“How Great is Our God”

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice

Chorus: How great is our God! Sing with me
How great is our God! And all will see
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands
Beginning and the end. Beginning and the end
The Godhead Three in One, Father, Spirit, Son
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb (Chorus)

Name above all Names, worthy of all praise
My heart will sing: How great is our God (Chorus)

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves © 2004 sixsteps Music,
worshiptogether.com songs, Wondrously Made Songs CCLI License # 73146

Post Communion Prayer

All: Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out into the world to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant: All our problems

All: We send to the cross of Christ

Celebrant: All our difficulties

All: We send to the cross of Christ

Celebrant: All the devil's works

All: We send to the cross of Christ

Celebrant: And all of hopes
All: We set on the risen Christ

The Blessing

The Recessional

“Way Maker”

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

Chorus: (You are) Way Maker, Miracle Worker
Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness
My God that is who You are

You are here touching every heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing every heart
I worship You I worship You

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending every heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

Tag: That is who You are, that is who You are
That is who You are, that is who You are

Bridge: Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu © 2016 Integrity Music Europe CCLI License # 73146

The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.