



**Welcome to St. Luke's Church
Saturday, April 4, 2026**

Holy 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.

**Chorus: Things cast down are being raised up
Things that had grown old are being made new
Light of Christ, Rising in glory
Banish our darkness away**

The Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Chorus: Things cast down are being raised up
Things that had grown old are being made new
Light of Christ, Rising in glory
Banish our darkness away**

**God, in your love, you made all things
And called everything good
Restore our lives
Through Jesus Christ (Chorus)**

The Fall

Genesis 3

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Chorus: Things cast down are being raised up
Things that had grown old are being made new
Light of Christ, Rising in glory
Banish our darkness away**

**Although we believed the serpent's lies
And traded our blessing for shame
You sent your son
To crush his head (Chorus)**

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.

**Chorus: Things cast down are being raised up
Things that had grown old are being made new
Light of Christ, Rising in glory
Banish our darkness away**

**Your heart was broken, beholding your world
Filled with violence and hate
Still you promised us
To save again (Chorus)**

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.

Chorus: Things cast down are being raised up
Things that had grown old are being made new
Light of Christ, Rising in glory
Banish our darkness away

By the strength of your mighty arm
You freed your people from slavery
Deliver us
From the waters of death (Chorus)

A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Chorus: Things cast down are being raised up
Things that had grown old are being made new
Light of Christ, Rising in glory
Banish our darkness away

You take away our hearts of stone
And give us hearts of flesh
Strengthen Us by
The spirit of life (Chorus)

Jonah and the Fish

Jonah 1:1-2:10

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Chorus: Things cast down are being raised up
Things that had grown old are being made new
Light of Christ, Rising in glory
Banish our darkness away

You send your people out to share
the good news with friend and foe
Give us your love
To tell the world (Chorus)

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.]

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, He all doth save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

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“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)

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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**

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The Message

The Exhortation

Celebrant: Dearly beloved, Scripture teaches that we were all dead in our sins and trespasses, but by grace we may be saved through faith. Our Savior Jesus Christ said, “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”; and he commissioned the Church to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Here we ask our heavenly Father that these Candidates, being baptized with water, may be filled with the Holy Spirit, born again, and received into the Church as living members of Christ’s body. Therefore, I urge you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his abundant mercy he will grant to these Candidates that which by nature they cannot have.

The Presentation

Celebrant: The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents: We present _____ to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant: Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidates: I do.

Celebrant: Today, on behalf of these children, you shall make vows to renounce the devil and all his works, to trust God wholeheartedly, and to serve him faithfully.

It is your task to see that these children are taught, as soon as they are able to learn, the meaning of all these vows, and of the Faith that you will profess as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

They must come to put their faith in Jesus Christ, and learn the Creeds, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and all other things that a Christian ought to know, believe, and do for the welfare of their soul.

When they have embraced all these, they are to come to the Bishop to be confirmed, that they may publicly claim the Faith for their own and be further strengthened by the Holy Spirit to serve Christ and His kingdom. Are you willing and ready to undertake this?

Parents and Godparents: I am, the Lord being my helper.

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

Parents and Godparents: I renounce them.

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

Parents and Godparents: I renounce them.

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

Parents and Godparents: I renounce them.

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

Parents and Godparents: I do.

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

Parents and Godparents: I do.

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

Parents and Godparents: *I will, the Lord being my helper.*

The Celebrant then addresses the Congregation, first inviting them to stand.

Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

All: We will.

Celebrant: Let us join with these Candidates to proclaim 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.

Litany for the Candidates

Deacon: Let us now pray for these Candidates who are to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. That these children may come to confess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

All: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon: That all these Candidates may continue in the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

All: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon: That they may walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which they have been called, ever growing in faith and all heavenly virtues.

All: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon: That they may persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever they fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

All: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon: That they may proclaim by word and deed the Good News of God in Christ Jesus to a lost and broken world.

All: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon: That as living members of the Body of Christ, they may grow up in every way into him who is the head.

All: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Deacon: That, looking to Jesus, they may run with endurance the race set before them, and at the last receive the unfading crown of glory.

All: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

Prayer for the Candidates

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting Father, in your great mercy you saved Noah and his family in the Ark from the destruction of the flood, prefiguring the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Look mercifully upon these your servants. Wash and sanctify them through your Holy Spirit, that they may be delivered from destruction and received into the Ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, they may pass through the turbulent floods of this troublesome world and come into the land of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, pours the water for Baptism.

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: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John in the River Jordan when the Holy Spirit descended upon him as a dove.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are made regenerate by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now, Father, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized here be cleansed from sin, be born again, and continue for ever faithful in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Baptism

The Celebrant pours water upon the Candidate three times, saying...

Celebrant: _____, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Celebrant makes the sign of the Cross upon the forehead of the newly baptized (and may use the Oil of Chrism to do so), saying...

Celebrant: _____, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. Amen.

When all have been baptized and signed the Celebrant says...

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, received them as your own children by adoption, made them members of your holy Church, and raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit, that they may enjoy everlasting salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: We receive you into the fellowship of the Church. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood of all his people.

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)

"All Who Are Thirsty"

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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.**

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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

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world

All: Have mercy on us.

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
All: Have mercy on us.

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
All: Grant us your peace.

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:

“O Praise The Name“

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

Chorus: O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

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“Oh Give Thanks”

We were wand'ring in the desert
With our souls so starved and weak
We were hungry for a homeland
We did not know how to seek
But we lifted up our voices
To the only One who hears
And the God of mercy came and brought us near

We were locked out of the garden
And our backs bend down with pain
In the shadow of death's darkness
We were slaves to sin and blame
Then we cried out in our labor
To the only One who hears
And the God of mercy wiped away our tears

Chorus: Oh give thanks to the Lord
For His love endures forever
We were wandering and lost
And our Father brought us home
To a safe dwelling place
To a feast of joy and laughter
Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good

We were fools in our rebellion
With our hunger strike of pride
We were sick and growing closer
To the death we should have died
Then He heard of our condition
And He called us by our names
And the God of glory took away our shame

We were far out on the ocean
Making wealth and chasing dreams
But the waves of great destruction
Brought us trembling to our knees
And we cried like drunken sailors
To the only One who hears
And the God of comfort took away our fears

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

“Oh Give Thanks”

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The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.