

Welcome to St. Luke's Church Saturday, March 30, 2024

Holy Saturday 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. The light of Christ. 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 1:1-2:2

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Fall

Genesis 3

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

"Worthy"

It was my cross You bore So I could live in the freedom You died for And now my life is Yours And I will sing of Your goodness forevermore

Chorus: Worthy is Your name Jesus

You deserve the praise worthy is Your name

Worthy is Your name Jesus

You deserve the praise worthy is Your name

And now my shame is gone
I stand amazed in Your love undeniable
Your grace goes on and on
And I will sing of Your goodness forevermore

Bridge: Be exalted now in the heavens

As Your glory fills this place You alone deserve our praise You're the name above all names

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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.

"No Longer Slaves"

You unravel me with a melody You surround me with a song Of deliverance from my enemies Till all my fears are gone

Chorus: I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God

I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God

From my Mother's womb, You have chosen me Love has called my name I've been born again into Your family Your blood flows through my veins

Bridge: You split the sea so I could walk right through it

My fears were drowned in perfect love You rescued me so I could stand and sing

I am a child of God

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Salvation Offered Freely to All

Isaiah 55:1-11

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

"Days of Elijah"

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored

And though these are days of great trial Of famine and darkness and sword Still we are the voice in the desert crying "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Chorus: Behold He comes riding on the clouds

Shining like the sun, at the trumpet call Lift your voice the year of Jubilee And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

These are the days of Ezekiel, The dry bones becoming as flesh And these are the days of your servant David Rebuilding a temple of praise These are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world
And we are the laborers in your vineyard
Declaring the word of the Lord.

Tag: There's no God like Jehovah. (Repeat)

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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.]

The Gloria in Excelsis

Sung: Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father
We worship you and we give you thanks
We praise you for your glory
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God

You take away the sin of the world
Have mercy, have mercy on us
You are seated at the right hand of the Father
Receive our, receive our prayer
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord
You alone are the most high God
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit
In the glory of God, in God the Father. Amen.

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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.

Psalm 114 [read responsively]

Lector: When Israel came out of Egypt,

All: and the house of Jacob from among a people of a foreign

tongue,

Lector: Judah was God's sanctuary,

All: and Israel his dominion.

Lector: The sea beheld it and fled;

All: Jordan was driven back.

Lector: The mountains skipped like rams, All: and the little hills like young sheep.

Lector: What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? All: O Jordan, that you were driven back?

Lector: You mountains, that you skipped like rams,

All: and you little hills like young sheep?

Lector: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,

All: at the presence of the God of Jacob,

Lector: Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water,

All: and the flint stone into a springing well.

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

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. (I 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. (I 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. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

"King Of Kings"

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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 Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest!

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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 in heaven, hallowed be your Name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those Who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, Now and for 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.

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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:

"In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song; This Cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save: 'Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave He rose again! And as he stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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"Cornerstone - My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly trust in Jesus' Name (Repeat)

Chorus: Christ alone cornerstone

Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil My anchor holds within the veil

When He shall come with trumpet sound Oh may I then in Him be found Dressed in His righteousness alone Faultless stand before the throne

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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

"Forever"

The moon and stars they wept
The morning sun was dead
The Savior of the world was fallen
His body on the cross
His blood poured out for us
The weight of every curse upon him

One final breath He gave
As Heaven looked away
The Son of God was laid in darkness
A battle in the grave
The war on death was waged
The power of hell forever broken

Pre-Chorus: The ground began to shake

The stone was rolled away

His perfect love could not be overcome

Now death where is your sting

Our resurrected King has rendered you defeated

Chorus: Forever, He is glorified, forever, He is lifted high

Forever, He is risen, He is alive, He is alive

Bridge: We sing hallelujah, We sing Hallelujah

We sing hallelujah, the Lamb has overcome

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The Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God.