The Three Days - 2018
St. John’s Lutheran Church, Beaufort SC

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil
March 29, 7:00 pm - March 30, 7:00 pm - March 31, 8:00 pm
the Three Days - the Triduum

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter

The Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter, together are the most powerful metaphor for Life in the worship of the Christian faith. The Three Days, using the ancient Jewish understanding that each new day begins at sundown, begins as the sun sets on Maundy Thursday and ends as our Easter Sunday celebration of the Resurrection draws to a close.

These services held on these three evenings form one great service, in which we experience the meaning of Christ’s death and resurrection in our lives. We hear that as Christ emptied himself for the world, we too are called to give of our lives for others - and that as God celebrated Jesus’ gift of himself by raising him from the dead, God also gifts us with new and eternal life as we pass through the darkness of this world with Christ.

On Maundy Thursday, Christ calls us to serve...

On Good Friday we contemplate God, dead on a cross because of our sins...

At the Great Vigil, we remember our passage with Christ through the watery grave of baptism into new life and new light...

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The Services of the Triduum:

Maundy Thursday Service – March 29 – 7:00 pm
Good Friday Service – March 30 – 7:00 pm
The Vigil of Easter – March 31 – 8:00 pm
Easter Sunday – April 1 – 8:15 & 10:30 am

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A nursery attendant will be provided Thursday and Friday nights. While children are always welcome at all services at St. John’s, Saturday’s service particularly lends itself to participation by children.

As part of our Easter celebration, breakfast will be served between the services on Easter Sunday. Worshippers are invited on Easter Sunday to bring a flower to adorn the cross in the church yard. It may be a flower of any type - a flower from your yard would be wonderful.

On Easter Sunday, St. John’s members who are able are asked to park as far from the entrances to the church as possible, leaving those spaces closest to the entrances for visitors. In addition, those who are willing are asked to park in the Palmetto State parking lot or our adjacent lot and walk to the church.
MAUNDY THURSDAY
March 29 - 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday marks the close of the season of Lent and focuses our attention on the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection. We remember that on the night before he gave himself in death, he gave the gift of himself in bread broken and in wine poured out. We remember that he gave himself in loving service, in the washing of feet.

Our entry into Lent on Ash Wednesday began with confession of sins and a sign of our brokenness in the imposition of ashes. Our entry into the Three Days at the close of Lent is again marked with confession. Those who so desire may come to kneel before the altar and receive an individual absolution of their sins.

At the conclusion of the service is the stripping of the chancel. This emptying of our worship space marks the transition from our Eucharistic celebration to our contemplation of Christ’s crucifixion and death. After all has been removed from the sanctuary the congregation leaves in silence.

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CHIMES/CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE  
_Ah Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended_  
Walcha

Jordan Plair, organ

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord’s call to struggle against sin, death, and the powers of evil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.
God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The congregation is invited to come forward for the laying on of hands and individual absolution of sins. Worshipers may kneel or stand at the altar rail. The pastors address each person:

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

You are Mine

from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

1 “I will come to you in the silence,
2 “I am hope for all who are hopeless,
3 “I am strength for all the despairing,
(4) I am the Word that leads all to freedom,

I will lift you from all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see.
I am the peace the world cannot give.

(2) In the healing for the ones who dwell in shame.

from Isaiah
GREETING
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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.
1Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. 6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” 7Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” 8Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” 9Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” 10Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” 11For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

12After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

31b“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Craig Boehlke
HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesu, Jesu
from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

We remain seated to sing as preparations for footwashing are made.

Refrain

Je - su, Je - su,
fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet:

Refrain

master who acts as a slave to them.
neighbors are nearby and far away.
all these are neighbors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

FOOTWASHING

On this night our Lord gave a commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God’s love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example and command of our Lord.

Those who have been asked to represent the congregation come forward to have their feet washed.

We observe in silence, reflecting upon the example of service that our Savior sets before us.
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this holy night, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy.

A brief silence.

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of your church. Where there is division, grant healing. Where there is fracture, grant unity. Where there is indifference, grant passion. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of the creation. Put an end to destruction and renew our commitment to the fullness of life you intend for every living thing. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of the human family. Bring understanding and a spirit of cooperation to nations and communities in conflict (especially). Dissolve distrust into understanding and transform disregard into profound care for one another. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit (especially). Feed those who hunger, give shelter to those without a home, heal the sick, and grant rest to the dying. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of this community. Help us seek not so much to be served, but to serve; not to be loved, but to love; not to be forgiven, but to forgive, for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness within us. Cast out all fear of separation from you, and join us to the communion of saints (especially Hans Nielsen Hauge) who celebrate at your eternal banquet table. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into the arms of your tender embrace, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who, on the cross, opened his arms to all: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM  Thy Will Be Done  Courtney
OFFERTORY

Let us pray. God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who seek the Lord are invited to share in Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine with his own body and blood. We commune by intinction at the head of the aisle. The pastor will place the bread into your hand, which you dip into the cup. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing the hands at the heart.

COMMUNION MUSIC

BLESSING

The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR WITH THE SINGING OF PSALM 22

Psalm 22

Jordan Plair, solo - Gloria Bockelman, piano

The Psalm Project
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We depart in silence. There is no benediction. Our worship continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 7:00 pm.

Worshippers are invited on Easter Sunday to bring a flower to adorn the cross in the church yard. It may be a flower of any type - a flower from your yard would be wonderful.

On Easter Sunday, St. John’s members who are able are asked to park as far from the entrances to the church as possible, leaving those spaces closest to the entrances for visitors. In addition, those who are willing are asked to park in the Palmetto State parking lot or our adjacent lot and walk to the church.

Please return this bulletin to the ushers as you leave.
Good Friday
March 30 - 7:00 pm

Good Friday is bare, empty, and silent, as befits the presence of death passing over. We honor the cross, seeing in it our deepest sorrow and joy combined. This is a time of reflection and intercession, with many pauses for silent prayer. We adore the Christ, our sacrificial Lamb, through our meditation on his cross.

We gather in silence for prayer and reflection.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Silence for prayer and reflection.

ANTHEM  
Were You There  
Joni Moritz, Soloist & Rudy Bishop, Flute

HOMILY  
Pastor Shannon Mullen
The Way of the Cross

Reflection upon the journey of Jesus to the Cross of Salvation with prayer and meditation is a powerful and venerable tradition. This contemplation of Jesus on his sorrowful journey to Golgotha seeks to unite us with our Lord in his suffering. And yet, the Way of the Cross teaches us more about the Love of Christ than his pain.

There are fourteen scenes from the passion of Jesus, some Biblical and some traditional. Each meditation includes reflection, silence for meditation, prayer, and a sung verse of a hymn.

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I. Jesus is Condemned to Death

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reflection

we sing: Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sov’reign die? Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

Jesus, help us to see how we condemn you. Help us to grasp that when we condemn another person, we condemn you. Even when our condemnation is justified, we condemn you still.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

II. Jesus Takes Up the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reflection

we sing: Was it for sins that I had done he groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!

Jesus, open our hearts to your cross. Help us to understand that your allowing us to deny you is what brings you into our midst. In your embrace of the cross we give to you, you join us in our brokenness.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.

We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.
III. JESUS FALLS A FIRST TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: **Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut its glories in when God, the mighty maker, died for his own creatures’ sin.**

Jesus, you allowed us to throw you out... to push you down. Help us to see your love in your fall.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.
We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

IV. JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: **Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears, dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my eyes to tears.**

Jesus, your mother loved you until the end, knowing not that it was the beginning. Help us to lift up the dying. Help us to see never-ending life in death.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.
We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

V. THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: **But tears of grief cannot repay the debt of love I owe; here, Lord, I give myself away: it’s all that I can do.**

Jesus, you were helped by a passerby, a stranger. Help us to see that whenever we help another, we are choosing not to destroy another. Help us to choose life, not death.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.
We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.
VI. A WOMAN WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: *Glory be to Jesus, who, in bitter pains, poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins.*

Jesus, help us to see your face in the face of every loved one... every stranger. May we look deeply into the eyes of others and see God.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.
We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

VII. JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: *Grace and life eternal in that blood I find; blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.*

Jesus, we see your love for us as you stumble under the cross. Turn our hearts toward you. May we desire you... only you.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.
We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

VIII. JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: *Blest through endless ages be the precious stream which from endless torment did the world redeem.*

Jesus, you weep for us. You call us to turn from the ways of death. You call us to repent, because you wish us to be free of fear. Help us to turn toward you... toward one another.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.
We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.
IX. JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Abel’s blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies; but the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.

Jesus, you join us in the depths of our brokenness, pain, falleness. You embrace the stranger... you embrace us. May we be filled with wonder at your love, to pour out your power, and take on this human life.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved. We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

X. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

Jesus, we are naked. We are nothing. We are dust. And yet you become naked. You become nothing. You become dust... with us. What love.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved. We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

XI. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing: Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. ’Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

Jesus, even this? Must you bear even this for us?

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved. We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.
XII. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

REFLECTION

we sing:  

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; the slave hath sinnèd, and the Son hath suffered; for man’s atonement, while he nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.

Jesus... Jesus... God is dead.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.
We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

XIII. JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

SILENCE

we sing:  

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation, thy mortal sorrow, and thy life’s oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.

Jesus. Your beloved receive your body in love. To care for it. Help us to love you, God who joins us in death.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.
We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

XIV. JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

SILENCE

we sing:  

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee, I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

Jesus, in your burial, may we find hope. In your death, may we receive life. Open our hearts to embrace you, dying for us... Open our hearts, so that we too, like you, released from the fear of death, might share life - life, not death - with our brothers and sisters, with every child of God.

O Lord, we give you thanks that by your cross we are not condemned, but saved.
We praise you, O Christ, for this your gift of life, Amen.

Silence for reflection.
We remain seated. This ancient prayer is marked by a time for silent prayer after each of the invitations to pray (the bids).

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world. Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Herman; for all servants of the church; and for all the people of God. Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us pray for those preparing for baptism. Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ. Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God. Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant’s promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.  *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

Let us pray for God's creation.  *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.  *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

Let us pray for those in need.  *Silent prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.  
*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*
We stand and turn to face the entrance to the sanctuary.

**PROCESSION OF THE CROSS**

A large cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the assembly. As the cross is brought forward, we continue to turn to face it, saying:

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

**Oh, come, let us worship him.**

**HYMN**

*Wait for the Lord*

*from Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

Silence is kept for meditation on the mystery of the crucified Savior, the mystery of redemption.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

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We may remain as long as we like for silent prayer and meditation.

It is an ancient tradition for worshippers to offer a physical sign of adoration to Christ revealed on the cross. Those who so desire may offer such a sign before leaving. This may take the form of kneeling in prayer near the cross, touching the cross, or even kissing the cross.
We depart in silence. There is no benediction.

Our worship continues with the Great Vigil of Easter tomorrow, at 8:00 pm.

Worshippers are invited on Easter Sunday to bring a flower to adorn the cross in the church yard. It may be a flower of any type - a flower from your yard would be wonderful.

On Easter Sunday, St. John’s members who are able are asked to park as far from the entrances to the church as possible, leaving those spaces closest to the entrances for visitors. In addition, those who are willing are asked to park in the Palmetto State parking lot or our adjacent lot and walk to the church.

Please return this bulletin to the ushers as you leave.
the Great Vigil of Easter
31 March, the year of Grace 2018 + 8:00 pm

We gather in darkness this night to ponder the very center of our faith as we hear proclaimed anew the history of our salvation: God’s mighty acts and signs on our behalf and the fulfillment of that work in the Incarnation, glorious Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Around the new fire of Easter we are joined this night with all of Christ’s Holy Church as we celebrate his victory over death and the grave. How great the cost of our salvation! Greater still our joy in the life we share in God’s own Son, Jesus Christ!

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THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

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 first candle is lit from the new fire of Easter.

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

Thanks be to God!

The light is passed until all candles are lit - a flame divided, yet undimmed.

We carry the new light into the sanctuary. The proclamation of Light is sung three times in procession.

P: Light of Christ!  C: Thanks be to God!
THE EXULTET

We gather around the font to light the Paschal Candle and to hear proclaimed the Exsultet, the ancient hymn of God’s great victory in Christ Jesus.

REJOICE, heavenly powers! SING, choirs of angels! EXULT, all creation around God’s throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation! REJOICE, O Earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

REJOICE, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God’s people!

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise the unseen God, the all powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ...

...Christ, that Morning Star, who is ris’n from the dead, and sheds his peaceful light on all your people, your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Let us pray. 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 and serve you, shining with your 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.

Please extinguish your candles and take a seat.
Let us hear now the record of God’s saving deeds and mighty acts on our behalf, and how, with a mighty arm and outstretched hand, God saved the people of old in ages past.

THE ACCOUNT OF CREATION

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-24a

RESPONSE

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

1. Each little flow’r that opens, each little bird that sings,
2. The purple-headed mountains, the river running by,
3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings.
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

PRAYER

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.
ISRAEL IS DELIVERED AT THE RED SEA

The reading is paraphrased in a hymn. The cantor tells the story, singing each phrase. We respond “...let my people go” and with the Refrain.

HYMN

When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land (Go Down Moses)

1 When Israel was in Egypt’s land,
2 The Lord told Moses what to do, let my people go;
3 The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,
4 As Israel stood by the waterside,

5 When they had reached the other shore,
6 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,

oppressed so hard they could not stand,
to lead the child’rn of Israel through, let my people go.
a fire by night, a shade by day, at God’s command it did divide,
tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go!

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land,

Refrain

5 they sang the song of triumph o’er,

6 and let us all in Christ be free,

let my people go. Refrain

let my people go. Refrain

PRAYER

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: by the power of your mighty arm you 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.

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SALVATION FREELY OFFERED TO ALL

RESPONSE

The Lord is my Song

The cantor will sing the verse once, then the congregation may join the cantor.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

PRAYER

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.

VALLEY OF THE DRY BONES

Fourth Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The reading is paraphrased in a song.

The prophet Ezekiel, proclaims the Word of the Lord!

Them bones, them bones, them dry bones, them bones, them bones, them dry bones, them bones, them bones, them dry bones. Now hear the Word of the Lord!
PRAYER
Almighty God, by the Passover of Jesus you reveal the fulfillment of your promise to act with power for those who are lost and dying. Fill those who cry out to you with the breath of new life. Grant to those who are renewed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DELIVERANCE FROM THE FIERY FURNACE
The reading is paraphrased in a song.

ANTHEM
The Fourth Man in the Fire
Arthur Smith

PRAYER
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.

THE RITE OF BAPTISM AND THE AFFIRMATION OF HOLY BAPTISM
We gather around the font both to celebrate the rite of holy baptism and to remember and affirm our own baptisms. We rejoice that God has chosen us to be holy children of God, baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection!

THE BAPTISMAL ANTHEM
O Healing River
We repeat each line that the leader sings.
1 O healing river, O healing river,
   send down your waters, send down your waters,
Send down your waters, etc.
upon this land.
O healing river,
send down your waters,
And wash the blood
from off the sand.
2 This land is parching,
   this land is burning,
   No seed is growing
   in the barren ground.
   O healing river,
   send down your waters,
   O healing river,
   send your waters down.

3 Let the seed of freedom,
   awake and flourish,
   let the deep roots nourish,
   let the tall stalks rise.
   O healing river,
   send down your waters,
   O healing river,
   from out of the skies.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world.

Anna’s sponsors: We present Anna Kay Peeples to receive the sacrament of holy baptism.

Molly’s sponsors: We present Margaret Ann Ferguson to receive the sacrament of holy baptism.

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities...
- to live with them among God’s faithful people,
- to bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
- to teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- to place in their hands the holy scriptures,
- and to nurture them in faith and prayer,

...so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Anna grow in the Christian faith and life?
Anna’s parents and sponsors: I do.

Do you promise to help Molly grow in the Christian faith and life?
Molly’s parents and sponsors: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Anna and Molly and pray for them in their new life in Christ?
We do.
PROFESSION OF FAITH

I invite all gathered 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?  
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?  
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you away 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. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You breathe life into dry bones. You pour out your Holy Spirit so that the world may know your peace and truth. Drench us in your Spirit again this night. Breathe new life into us anew. Help us to trust that we are indeed your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

Anna Kay/Margaret Ann, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Anna/Molly with 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.
Anna/Molly, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
Amen.

**WELCOME**

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome these newly baptized!

*Anna and Molly, we welcome into the body of Christ. We welcome you into God’s mission which we share as disciples of Jesus! We rejoice that you are joining us in giving thanks and praise to God and in bearing God’s creative and redeeming Word to all the world!*

**THE PEACE**

Give your whole Church, O God, peace in this time of rejoicing.
The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*We share with one another a sign of the Lord’s peace.*

*Members of the community will dress the sanctuary for Easter.*
*You may be asked to help!*
The Alleluia announces the first Eucharist of EASTER as the table of the Lord is set for this festal banquet.

The solemnities of Holy Week are completed now and we enter into the joy of the Great Fifty Days.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

2 Sing with all the people of God and join in the
PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, who made this most holy night to shine with glory: Stir up in your Church the Spirit of the Lord’s resurrection: that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may love you by serving all: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on Easter morning, John tells us, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and found the stone which sealed it had been removed. She immediately went to tell the disciples. Two of them came, found the tomb empty, and returned to where they were staying. Our Gospel reading begins just after they left her...

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION  The Strife is O’er, verse 2, followed by Alleluia
OFFERING AND PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY HYMN

Now all the vault of heav’n re-sounds
A-doring praises now we bring
in praise of love that still abounds: “Christ has
and with the heav’n-ly blessed sing: “Christ has
tri-umphed! He is liv-ing!” Sing, choirs of
tri-umphed! Al-le-lu-ia!” Be to the
angels, loud and clear! Re-peat their song of glo-ry
Fa-ther, and our Lord, to Spir-it blest, most ho-ly
here: “Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv-ing!”
God, all the glo-ry, nev-er end-ing!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who seek the Lord Jesus are invited to share in Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine with his own body and blood. You may take the wine from an individual glass or the common cup. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing the hands at the heart. If needed, gluten free bread is available from the pastor and grape juice is available from the individual glasses.
DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might,

down 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.
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.
BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

May God, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you with newness of life. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Now the Green Blade Rises**

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
2. In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
3. Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
thinking that he would never wake again,
your touch can call us back to life again,
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

love is come again like wheat arising green.

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!
Our Easter celebration continues tomorrow with Festival of Resurrection Easter Sunday worship services at 8:15 am and 10:30 am.

As part of our Easter celebration, breakfast will be served between the services on Easter Sunday.

Worshippers are invited on Easter Sunday to bring a flower to adorn the cross in the church yard. It may be a flower of any type - a flower from your yard would be wonderful.

On Easter Sunday, St. John’s members who are able are asked to park as far from the entrances to the church as possible, leaving those spaces closest to the entrances for visitors. In addition, those who are willing are asked to park in the Palmetto State parking lot or our adjacent lot and walk to the church.

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