GROW IN SERVICE, WORSHIP, FORMATION, & CARE @ FELC

To learn about our faith community, greet one another and visit our webpage. You'll find information about our weekly updates and emails, online connections, racial justice action, adult and children's formation, our Child Development Center, our serving, locally and globally. God loves. We love. *Everyone!*

http://www.felcaustin.org/ updates and news about ministry & mission
YouTube: First English Austin Facebook: FELCAustin Twitter: @FELCAustin
Subscribe on our website to our weekly email news, praying, & other updates
https://www.felcaustin.org/news/communications-sign-up
Offer your stewardship in multiple ways: www.felcaustin.org/giving
https://www.elca.org/ learn about our ecumenical, interfaith, & global mission
www.elca.org / —800-638-3522 give directly to Lutheran Disaster Response
https://www.lirs.org & https://www.casamarianella.org/ for advocacy & donation

Vice President

Members-at-Large

Secretary

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Felc Staff

 Transitional Pastor

 J. Michael Mills (he/him)

 pastor@felcaustin.org

J. Michael Mills (he/him) mobile: 443-846-9203

Director of Music & Administrator Bryan Rust (he/him) office@felcaustin.org

 Director of Child Development Center (CDC)

 LaQuetha Ford (she/her)
 Iford@firstenglishcdc.org

Bookkeeper

Mary Lou Turnbull (she/her) payable@felcaustin.org

Custodians

Teresa del Aguila (ella/her) Jesus del Aguila (he/him)

First English Lutheran,

J. Mills, pastor

LuMin (UT), Bradley Fuerst, pastor

Spirit in the Hills Lutheran, Sharolyn Swenson Browning, pastor

Technicolor Ministries, Katy Miles-Wallace, pastor

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Southwestern Texas Synod, Susan J. Briner, bishop

FELC CONGREGATION COUNCIL President Nancy Neuse

Nancy Neuse LaRu Woody Elizabeth Zimmermann Jerry Don Aguirre Nancy Baden Derek Bridges Gwen Flory Todd Jermstad Andrew Koepp Mary Lou Larson Kristin Mondy Benjamin Rode LaRu Woody Allen Jensen Gwen Flory

Lectors: Trish Karli, Sharolyn Browning, Lillian Coburn, Katy Mills-Wallace, Bradley Fuerst Altar Ministers: Margaret Bruesch, Barbara Schutz Communion Ministers: Susan Briner, J. Mills, Katy Miles-Wallace Floral Minster: Teresa Ringness Livestream Ministers: JP. Northcutt-Benson, Margaret Bruesch Music Ministers: FELC Choir; Maria Straight Welcome Ministers: Monica Lund, Barbara Schutz Hospitality Ministers: Anne Wiebe, Heidi Goebel, Merrily Porter, Barbara Schutz

<u>The Three Days</u> The Great Vigil of Easter











3001 Whitis Avenue Austin, Texas 78705 INFO@felcaustin.org www.felcaustin.org 512.478.1933 church 512.478.5424 cdc

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—a sanctuary church body in the United States

April 8, 2023 Sunset

BIENVENIDOS! EVERYONE IS WELCOME. THIS MEANS YOU.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church. You're invited to fully participate in a community of faith and friendship that gathers for worship, relationship building, personal growth, and service in the community and the world. Following the example of Christ, this congregation welcomes you exactly as you are. We are committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently abled physically or mentally. Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. We're Lutheran, so that means we believe in grace for everyone. The good news of Jesus Christ, who brings us the love and mercy of God as a gift, liberates us to love as we are loved, serve as we are served, and give as we have been given much. We rejoice in the diversity that has nurtured and enriched the whole church. Whether you're from another faith tradition, a seeker and questioner looking for more to life and a place to explore, or even a lifelong Lutheran, we're glad to have you.

Esta Liturgia/This Liturgy

If this is one of your first times to connect with FELC, WELCOME! Use the online Welcome Visitors information form and provide feedback on your visit: <u>http://www.felcaustin.org/forms/visitors</u>.

We ask everyone worshipping in the sanctuary to respect each individual's safety needs and desires, especially anyone at high risk for Covid complications. Masking is encouraged for those in need.

At First English, we strive to use language for God, Christ, and humanity that is inclusive and diverse. Our use of feminine, non-gender, and masculine names and metaphors for God, both biblical and contemporary, helps us to experience God more fully. Languages that include persons of all gender identities, sexualities, ethnicities, and color, helps us better reflect God's expansive love and diversity.

Hearing assistance devices are available for use. Two options are available: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids. Please connect with an usher if you would like a hearing assistance device.

Children and adults are welcome here to be fully present and fully themselves.

We welcome your generosity in person and online. All of life is an offering to God. Before the offering time, which is near the middle of the liturgy, all worshiping in person are invited to place a financial offering in a basket located at the welcome table at either entrance. Baskets will not be passed during the liturgy.

In an effort to connect with the broadest number of people, **we livestream and archive our services and events for broadcast on the internet.** Your attendance at an event constitutes your consent to be included in filming, photographing, audio recording, or broadcast and for any other use in whole or in part, including promotion. If you prefer to avoid being filmed, please use a back pew.

All Gender Restrooms with changing tables are in the left side hallway as you face the front of the sanctuary.

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+ENVIO/SENDING Anuncios

The assembly stands. **BENDICIÓN** Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!** Our help is in the name of the Lord. **The maker of heaven and earth.** Blessed be the name of the Lord. **Now and forever!**

May the blessing of God, whose Spirit raised Christ to new life, strengthen you in faith, enrich you with hope, and fill you for love, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

#376 Thine Is the Glory

DISMISSAL Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve in newness of life! Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

HOSPITALITY

Everyone is invited to a champagne reception in the Chapel of the Saints.

INVITATION & DISTRIBUTION

All people, including children, are invited to the Lord's Supper. We encourage you to participate in a way that is meaningful for you.

Ushers will direct you via the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand. Then you may proceed to a station and receive a small cup, where wine will be poured. Gluten-free wafers/grape juice are available. Please ask a minister.

Then make your way to your seat by a side aisle.

You are invited remain in prayer, meditation, and singing.

If you are not communing, you are invited to a station where a minister will offer a praver of blessing. If you desire communion or a blessing at your seat, let an usher or minister know.

Be Not Afraid (repeated)

music: Taizé





The assembly is seated as we sing in thanksgiving. SONG AFTER COMMUNION

#382 Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

+AL CONGREGARSE/GATHERING

As we gather, you are invited to have an open heart and mind. The assembly offers acclamations and songs printed in bold. As we gather, you need this bulletin and an individual candle.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

SALUDO/GREETING

Siblings, the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the community formed in the Spirit, are with you now. And also with you.

People of God, 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.

BLESSING OF THE FIRE

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.**

PREPARATION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The presiding minister may trace the inscription on the paschal candle, which is held by an assisting minister.

Christ, yesterday and today, +the beginning and the ending. A Ω To Christ belongs all time 2 and all the ages; 0 to Christ belongs glory and dominion 20 now and forever. 23 **Amen.**

The presiding minister lights the paschal candle from the fire:

The light of Christ, rising in glory, bring us into the beauty of your darkness and light.

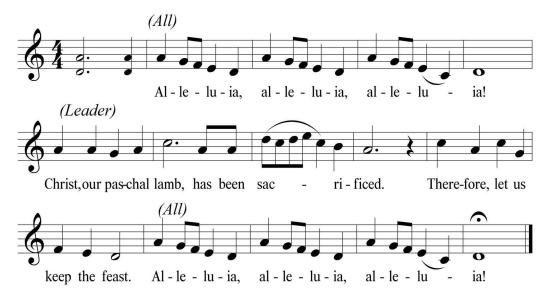
Padre Nuestro

God, remember us in your kin-dom, and teach us to pray:

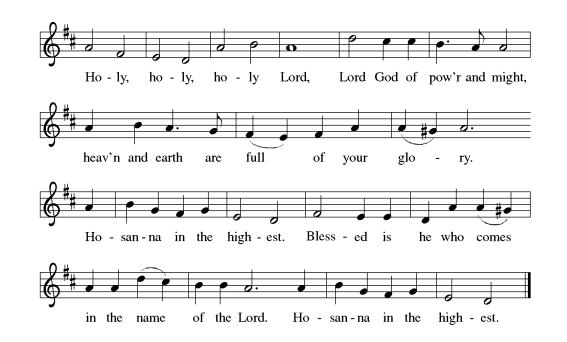
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and forever. Amen. Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino. Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

Partiendo el Pan

Christ Our Passover



Text: 1 Corinthians 5:7,8 Music: Michael E. Krentz, b. 1954, based on *Christ lag in Todesbanden*



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God . . . and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Remembering, therefore, Christ's life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this hurting and beautiful world. Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Breathe your Spirit on us . . . clothed in the new life of Christ.

Remember, Lord, your one, holy,... and preserve us in peace.

Remember the people of the nations . . . a new, peaceful day with lasting justice.

Remember the sick and all who cry out ... grant them healing and restoration.

Remember the people in this assembly . . . that we may live for you alone.

Remember all who have died . . . through the resurrection of Christ.

Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen!

PROCESSION

Throughout the procession into church building, leaders and assembly sing. Once reaching your place, please remain standing, as you are able.



20

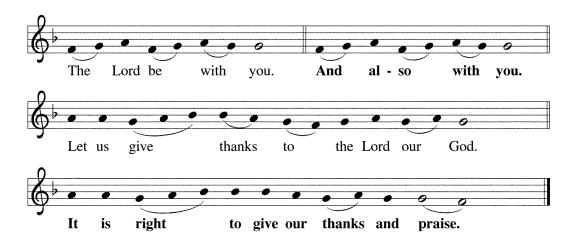
EASTER PROCLAMATION (EXSULTET)

music: Plainsong chant

The assembly remains standing, as able.

The cantor sings the Easter Proclamation.

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers ...



The assembly repeats each "This is the night" after the cantor.

... one God, now and forever.

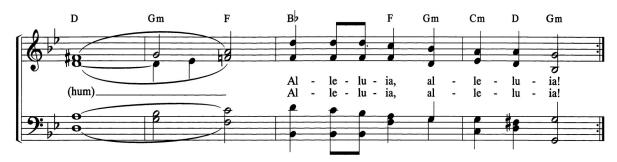
A - men. (sung)

The assembly is seated.

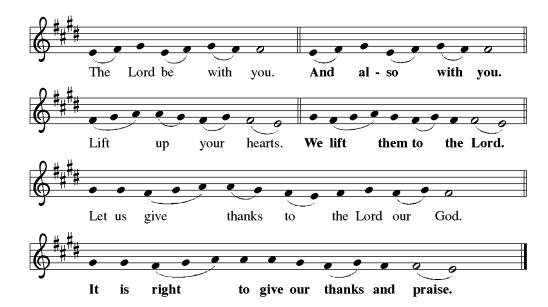
Individual candles may remain burning with care, as able.

This fourth century song of blessing, inspired by St. Ambrose (374-397), is chanted. We rejoice in God's mighty acts of salvation. The assembly stands, as willing and able, in body and spirit.Bread, wine, money, and other gifts are presented and the altar is set.OFFERING SONGPsallite Deo/This is the Day (repeated) $\square - 120$ GmEbDBbF $\square - 120$ GmCmDBbF $\square - 120$ GmCm $\square - 120$ GmCm</





GRAN PLEGRAIA EUCARISTICA



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands ANTHEM

text: Martin Luther; arr. J. S. Bach

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands for our offenses given;

but now at God's right hand he stands and brings us life from heaven.

Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully loud songs of hallelujah! Hallelujah!

So let us keep the festival to which the Lord invites us;

Christ is the very joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.

Now his grace to us imparts eternal sunshine to our hearts; the night of sin is ended. Hallelujah!

Then let us feast this holy day on Christ, the bread of heaven; the Word of grace has purged away the old and evil leaven.

Christ alone, our holy meal, the hungry soul will feed and heal; faith lives upon no other! Hallelujah!

The assembly stands.

La Paz

The prayers of intercession tonight are offered within the Thanksgiving at the Table at the communion liturgy.

The offering is our response to God's grace. Time, labor, wisdom, skill, energy,

prayers, silence, protest, care, and play,

wonder, rest, finances, resistance,

all serve God's purposes.

Christ is risen and with us now, bringing us the gift of peace. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Those participating in the nave are invited to offer a sign and gesture of peace. We are aware of others' desire for distance to be maintained and touch to be respected.

Those participating via livestream are invited to make a comment in the chat or to text someone with whom you would like to share the peace of Christ.

The assembly is seated.

+Comida/Meal

OFFERING INVITATIONS

As we offer our lives, God enlivens the mission of the church, and we care for those in need.

First English Lutheran: www.felcaustin.org

LuMin (UT): www.lcmaustin.org

Spirit in the Hills Lutheran: www.spiritinthehills.org

Technicolor Ministries: www.technicolorministries.com

Southwestern Texas Synod: www.swtsynod.org

+PALABRA/WORD

The stories proclaim God's saving acts, and point the way toward Christ and the paschal mystery to which we are joined and invited in baptism.

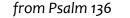
The pattern of story, musical response, and prayer holds our proclamation.

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Creation

The assembly stands. Response

FIRST READING





Give thanks to the Lord, for the | LORD is good, for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

Give thanks to the | God of gods,

for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

who by wisdom | made the heavens,

for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

who made | the great lights,

for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

who gives food | to all creatures,

for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord, for the | LORD is good, for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

Prayer

The assembly is seated.	
Second Reading	Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8

8-13

Flood

The assembly stands. Response from Psalm 46 God is our ref- | uge and strength, a very present | help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the | earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea. though its waters | rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult. The LORD of | hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

Prayer

The assembly is seated.

THIRD ReadingExodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Deliverance at the Sea

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

¹⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

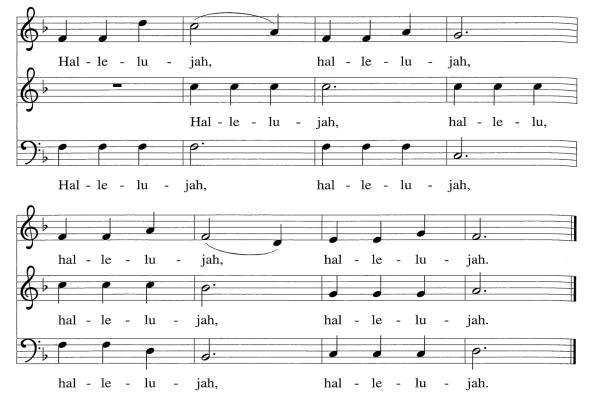
³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

²⁰Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them this song:

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel and turns to face the procession as the Word dwells among us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

music: Zimbabwe



GOSPELJohn 20:1–18The holy gospel according to John.Glory to you, O Lord.

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

The assembly repeats the gospel acclamation.

The assembly is seated. **SERMON**

8

EASTER ACCLAMATION Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The assembly moves to the pews in the nave. You may extinguish individual candles.

The ministers dress the altar and furniture in celebration of the resurrection.

All remain standing and sing. The hymn is found in the red worship book in the pew.**PROCESSIONELW #365**Jesus Christ is Risen Today

ORACIÓN DEL DÍA

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism,

that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Lectura

Romans 6:3—11

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, so we too might live in newness of life.⁵For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

 The assembly stands.

 RESPONSE
 from Exodus 15:1–5, 7

 I will sing to the LORD who has | triumphed gloriously; throwing horse and rider in- | to the sea.

 The LORD is my strength | and my might, and has become | my salvation;

 this is my God—this God | I will praise; my ancestor's God—this God I | will exalt.

 The LORD | is a warrior; the LORD | is the name.

 The LORD hurled Pharaoh's chariots and army in- | to the sea; his picked officers were sunk in | the Red Sea.

 Your right hand O LORD, glo- | rious in power your right hand O LORD, shat- | tered the enemy.

Prayer

The assembly is seated. FOURTH READING

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Valley of the dry bones

The assembly stands.

RESPONSE from Psalm 143 Lord hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my | supplications; answer me | in your righteousness.

My spirit | faints within me;

my heart within | me is desolate.

Let me know of your lovingkindness in the morning, for I put my | trust in you;

show me the road that I must travel, for I lift up my | soul to you.

Revive me O Lord | for your name's sake;

for your love's sake bring me | out of trouble.

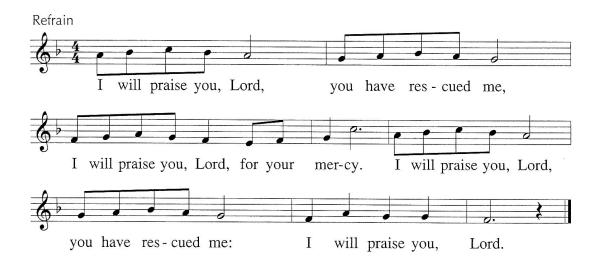
Prayer

Daniel 3:1-29

Deliverance from the fiery furnace

The assembly stands and sings this repeated refrain. Response from Psalm 30

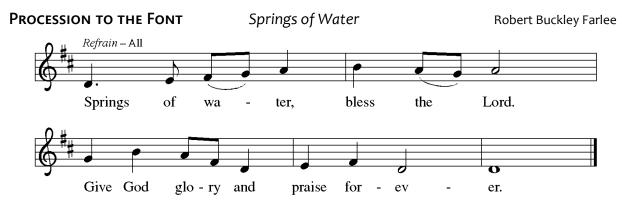
Paul Inwood



Prayer

The assembly all gathers around the baptismal font and paschal candle.

The assembly sings this repeated refrain.



And has given us the victory: Who ascended on high: And intercedes for us at the right hand of God:

For the great cloud of witnesses into which we are baptized:

For the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church:

For Sarah and Abraham, Isaac and Rebekah:

For Gideon and Deborah, David and Esther:

For Moses and Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel:

For Miriam and Rahab, Abigail and Ruth:

For the gift of the Holy Spirit:

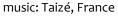
Great is your love. Great is your love. Great is your love.

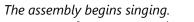
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Be gracious to us:	Hear us, O God.
Give new life by the grace of baptism:	Hear us, O God.
Strengthen all who bear the sign of the cross:	Hear us, O God.
Clothe us in compassion and love:	Hear us, O God.
Bring us with all your saints to the river of life:	Hear us, O God.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayer for the Spirit







As the singing continues the presiding minister prays:

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

During the litany the assembly is sprinkled in remembrance, renewal, and invitation in baptism. LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Lord, have mercy.Lord, have mercy.Christ, have mercy.Christ, have mercy.Lord, have mercy.Lord, have mercy.

Be gracious to us.	Hear us, O God.
Deliver your people.	Hear us, O God.
You loved us before the world was made:	Hear us, O God.
You rescued the people of your promise:	Hear us, O God.
You spoke through your prophets:	Hear us, O God.
You gave your only Son for the life of the world:	Hear us, O God.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:	Great is y
And was born of the Virgin Mary:	Great is y
Who by his cross and suffering has redeemed the world:	Great is y
And has washed us from our sins:	Great is y
Who on the third day rose from the dead:	Great is y

Great is your love. Great is your love. Great is your love. Great is your love. Great is your love.

⊕ВАUTISMO/ВАРТISM

Holy Baptism is the sacrament of new birth into the life of Christ in the community of the church. The history of God's salvation, just offered in the stories of faith and life, is now proclaimed in Christ's name for each person invited, received, and renewed at the font. The baptized people of God also find in this liturgy an opportunity to renew and affirm their baptismal vows through their affirmation of faith in the Creed and sprinkling with baptismal waters, hearing once again God's promise of forgiveness and unconditional love.

INVITATION TO BAPTISMAL RENEWAL

RENUNCIATION OF EVIL AND PROFESSION OF FAITH As you affirm your baptism,

I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, 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 from God?

I renounce them.

At baptisms, affirmations and confirmations, funerals, and throughout the fifty days of Easter, we light the large **Paschal candle** as a reminder of the light of Christ, the light of resurrection. The term "Paschal" comes from the Latin word "Pascha", which came from the Hebrew word Pesach, which in Hebrew means Passover. Each year, a new paschal candle, made of beeswax, is prepared and blessed. Together let us use the Apostles' Creed to affirm the faith that unites us with the whole church, across time, across oceans, across peoples.

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 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 OVER THE WATER 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.** Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and creeks. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray: Breathe your Spirit into this water, and into all who are gathered here this night. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Wash away our tears. Take away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your eternal fountain, and bring to birth the body of Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

You have made public profession of your faith.
Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ? We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.