

## SERVICE OF LIGHTS

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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.**

*The presiding minister may introduce and welcome the assembly to the vigil, using these or similar words.*

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.

*If it has not been burning, the new fire is lighted. The following prayer may be used. The presiding minister waits until the fire is burning before praying.*

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 presiding minister lights the paschal candle, using a stick or taper from the fire, and says:*

The light | of Christ,  
dispel the darkness of our | hearts and minds.

*The minister lifts the candle so that all may see it.*

## PROCESSION

*As the procession begins, the minister says:*

The light | of Christ.

**Thanks be | to God.**

*The procession continues.*

The light | of Christ.

**Thanks be | to God.**

*The procession continues.*

The light | of Christ.

**Thanks be | to God.**

*The paschal candle is placed in its stand.*

## **EASTER PROCLAMATION**

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!  
Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;  
and for so great a victory, 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 holy 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.