

## **GATHERING**

### **GREETING**

L: Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ our Lord. My brothers and sisters in Christ: On this most holy morning in which Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we gather as the Church to watch and pray. This is the Passover of Christ, in which we share in Christ's victory over death.

### **OPENING PRAYER.....[Unison]**

**God of life, through Jesus Christ you have bestowed upon the world the light of life. Sanctify this new fire, and grant that our hearts and minds may also be kindled with holy desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

L: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

**ALL: Christ is our light!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE.....“Up from the Grave He Arose”...UMH No. 322**

### **EASTER PROCLAMATION**

L: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

**All: Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!**

L: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

**ALL: Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of our King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!**

L: 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!

**ALL: This is the day when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.**

**L: This is the morning when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.**

**ALL: Amen.**

**\*GOSPEL READING.....*Luke 24:1-6a***

At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus. They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up.

**THE MESSAGE....."Are You Looking for Life Among Dead Things?"**

**CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE....."Surely the Presence of the Lord"... UMH No. 328**

**GOING FORTH IN HOPE**

**EXIT MUSIC**