**Gathering Rite for the Easter Season**

*This gathering rite is based on* Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, people’s book, page 97. It is provided for use on Sundays, except when the Renewal of Baptismal Vows (BAS, page 330 - 332) is used.*

*This form of Gathering — a Thanksgiving for Baptism followed by the sharing of the Peace — is suggested for the Easter season, just as a Penitential Order was suggested for the Lenten season. In this way, the customary order of Confession-and-Absolution may be seasonally replicated: a season of penitence, followed by a season of rejoicing in the peace and absolution of the risen Christ. The Confession-and-Absolution are not used after the Prayers of the People if this form of the Gathering is used, and the Greeting of Peace may be used (as shown here) before the Collect of the Day, or after the Prayers of the People, but not in both places during the same liturgy.*

**Gathering of the Community**

**Greeting**

*All stand. The presider greets the community.*

*Presider:* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*People:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Presider:* May his grace and peace be with you.

*People:* **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*Standing at the font, the presider continues,*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*or*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are raised to new life in the Spirit.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*or*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are set free from the dominion of evil and death.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*or*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are born from above as members of a new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font while the presider gives thanks, saying,*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel

out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John

and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,

to lead us, through his death and resurrection,

from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son,

we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith.

We pray that all who have passed through the water of baptism

may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,

be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*: **And also with you.**

*Then follows an act of praise: Glory to God, or a hymn or other canticle. As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly may be sprinkled with water during the singing.*

**The Collect of the Day**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

*The community may pray silently. The presider then sings or says the collect, after which the people respond,* **Amen.**