



Easter Vigil

March 30, 2024, 8:00 p.m.

i - congregation stands. **h** - congregation sits. **k** - congregation kneel or sit as you are able.
g - congregation sings. Congregation responds in **bold print**.

*Children are encouraged to stand, sit, and kneel with the congregation.
If you are uncomfortable standing or kneeling, you may choose to sit.*

Welcome visitors and guests. We are glad to have you worshiping with us today and would be happy to answer any questions you may have about our congregation. Please feel free to speak with one of the pastors or call the church during the week.

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As we gather, please note that some people prefer to reconnect with their church family and friends in the narthex (lobby area) prior to the service, while others prefer to meditate and pray in the sanctuary in preparation for worship. The ushers will try to keep the glass doors closed so that the joyful noise of church-family conversation in the narthex and the holy silence of preparation for worship in the sanctuary can co-exist before the service begins. Suggested prayers to help you prepare for worship can be found on the inside front cover of the hymnal in the pews.

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Our services generally come out of the various settings in the Lutheran Service Book (the hymnal in the pews). We encourage people to have a hymnal for in-home use as well. Contact the office if you would like to order one.

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Most of our services include a corporate confession of sins and absolution (forgiveness) from God through the pastor. Occasionally we have Matins or other services which do not include this brief rite. We always offer individual confession and absolution by appointment and encourage our members to make use of this great gift of God.

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Holy Communion is celebrated at each of our regularly scheduled services and on other special days in the church year. In accordance with the historic practice of the Christian Church, our congregation practices close communion, meaning that normally our members and members of our sister (LCMS) congregations commune here. Please speak to one of the pastors about exceptions to this general practice. Please also note that this practice in no way intends to comment on the state of anyone else's faith; we simply understand our communing together as also a public profession of unity in doctrine, which not everyone shares. Those who do not commune here may come forward for a blessing (simply fold your arms over your heart to indicate that you are not communing) or remain in the pew during communion and pray, particularly for visible unity in the Christian Church.

*Out of respect for God's House and your fellow worshipers,
please turn off or silence cell phones prior to this Worship Service. Thank you for your co-operation.*

Order of Service

The congregation gathers in entrance for the lighting of the new fire, symbolizing light coming into the darkness at the time of creation.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

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

Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

Let us pray.
O God, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of the Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The pastor traces the cross on the candle while saying:
Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever,

and then traces the Greek letters Alpha and Omega on the candle while saying:
the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and the Omega.

He traces the year on the candle, saying:
His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

He puts the five wax nails into the candle, saying:
By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, he says:
May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Let us pray...
Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

All move to the back of the church to process in and receive the light from the Christ Candle. When passing the light, please keep the lit candles upright at all times.

Procession into the Church

The following response is sung 3 times -- once at the back, once at the center and again at the front of the church:



A The light of Christ.



G Thanks be to God.

After all the candles are lit and all have found a place in the church, the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) is chanted.

Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

PREFACE Musical notation for the first line of the Preface. It consists of a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is simple, with notes corresponding to the lyrics 'The Lord be with you.'

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Musical notation for the second line of the Preface. It consists of a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is simple, with notes corresponding to the lyrics 'And al-so with you.'

G And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood. This is the night when You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is this night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He who gave light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The candles are extinguished.

SERVICE OF READINGS

On this most holy night, our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His Word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

THE CREATION

A reading from Genesis, chapters one and two.

Genesis 1:1—2:2

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

Psalm 104:30

James Chepponis

Refrain

Lord, send out your Spir - it, and re - new the face of the
earth, re - new the face of the earth.

1. *Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are great indeed!
How manifold are Your works, O Lord! The earth is full of Your creatures.*
Refrain
2. *If You take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust.
When You send forth Your spirt, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth.*
Refrain
3. *May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord be glad in His works!
Pleasing to Him be my theme; I will be glad in the Lord.*
Refrain

Refrain

Let us pray...
Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things,
and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in
Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity,
even Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL

A reading from Isaiah, chapter fifty-five

Isaiah 55:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE Psalm 42



As the deer longs for flow-ing streams, so longs my
My tears have fed me day and night, while some have
Why do I mourn and toil with - in, when it is



soul for You, O__ God. My soul does thirst for the liv - ing
said "Where is Your God?" But I re - call, as my soul pours
mine to hope in__ God I shall a - gain sing__ praise to



God, when shall I come to see Your face?
dry, the days of praise with - in Your house.
Him, He is my help, He is my__ God.

Let us pray...

Almighty God, by Your Word You created and sustain all things, and by Your Spirit
You renew Your creation. Grant now the water of life to all who thirst for You that they
may bring forth abundant fruit in Your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our
Lord.

Amen.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO ISRAEL

A reading from Deuteronomy, chapter thirty-one

Deuteronomy 31:19-30

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE The Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 33:1, 3-5, 7, 8, 11-14)



Give ear, O heavens and | I will speak, *
and let the earth hear the words | of my mouth.

**For I proclaim the name | of the Lord;*
ascribe greatness | to our God!**

The Rock, His work is perfect, for His ways are | justice*
A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and up- | right is He.

**When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance,
when He divided | mankind,*
He fixed the borders of the peoples
according to the number of the | sons of God.**

He found him in a | desert land,*
and in the howling waste of the | wilderness;

He encircled him, He | cared for him,*
He kept him as the apple | of His eye.

“See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god be- | side Me;*
I kill and make alive; I wound and I heal;
and there is none that can deliver out of | My hand.”

Rejoice with Him, O | heavens;*
bow down to | Him, all gods,

for He avenges the blood of His | children*
and takes vengeance on His adver- | saries.

He repays those who | hate Him*
and cleanses His | people’s land.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Let us pray...

O God, the exaltation of the humble and the strength of the righteous, You taught Your people through Your holy servant Moses to sing Your sacred songs and delivered to them the Law that still directs us. Display in all nations the fullness of Your power that, as You blot out all sins through Your forgiveness, terror may turn to joy and fear of punishment may be transformed into the hope of salvation; through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE VALLEY OF THE DRY BONES

A reading from Ezekiel chapter 37

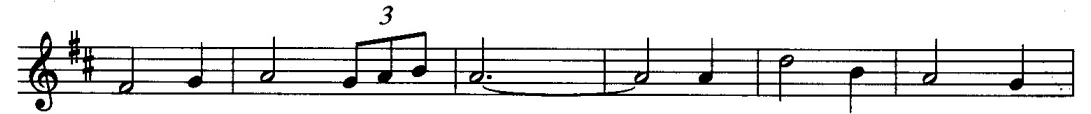
Ezekiel 37:1-14

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: “O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God”



1. O breathe on me, O breath of God, Fill
2. O breathe on me, O breath of God, Un -
3. O breathe on me, O breath of God, My
4. O breathe on me, O breath of God, So



me with life a - new, That I may love the
til my heart is pure; Un - til my will is
will to yours in - cline, Un - til this self - ish
shall I nev - er die, But live with you the



things you love, And do what you would do.
one with yours, To do and to en - dure.
part of me Glows with your fire di - vine.
per - fect life Of your e - ter - ni - ty.

Let us pray...

O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam’s children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

JONAH PREACHES TO NINEVEH

A reading from Jonah chapter 3.

Jonah 3:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: "Out of the Deep I Call" - (TLH #327) hymn paraphrase of Psalm 130

1 Out of the deep I call To Thee, O Lord, to Thee.
 2 Out of the deep I cry, The woe - ful deep of sin,
 3 Out of the deep of fear And dread of com - ing shame;
 4 Lord, there is mer - cy now, As ev - er was, with Thee.

Be - fore Thy throne of grace I fall; Be mer - ci - ful to me.
 Of e - vil done in days gone by, Of e - vil now with - in;
 All night till morn - ing watch is near I plead the pre - cious name.
 Be - fore Thy throne of grace I bow; Be mer - ci - ful to me. A - men.

Let us pray...

O God, as the prophet Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so Your Son Jesus spent three days in the heart of the earth. Grant us repentance to embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism and to proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
 He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

(Ringing of the bells and raising of lights)

HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast"

verse 1 - women; verse 2 - men; verse 3 & 4 - women (double verse; no refrain between); verse 5 - men

Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Women 1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 Men 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 Women 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 Men 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -
 blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

EASTER GOSPEL:

John 20:1-18

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one 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." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

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 Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for 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 that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE: Vicar Chase Greenhagen

On this holiest of nights, when the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, we rejoice with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him into His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be made powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death has no power over Him. The death He died, He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives, He lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Romans 6:3-11

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM and CONFESSION OF FAITH

As the baptized children of God, I ask you now to confess your baptismal faith before one another and before the Lord and to profess your intention to remain faithful to this covenant God made with you in your Baptism. Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

I do renounce them.

I ask you anew: Do you in the presence of God acknowledge the gifts God gave you in your Baptism?

I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell;

the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the + life everlasting. Amen.**

Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

I do.

Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God’s Word and sacraments, which are his means of grace, and in faith, word and action remain true to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, even to death?

I do so intend by the grace of God.

Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

I do intend with the help of God.

RECEPTION OF ADULT CONFIRMAND

Edward Maniscalco

Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

I do.

Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God’s Word and sacraments, which are his means of grace, and in faith, word and action remain true to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, even to death?

I do so intend by the grace of God.

Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

I do intend with the help of God.

HYMN: “I Bind Unto Myself Today” - LSB #604

Note the order of stanzas – 1, 2, (2)

Gathering of the Offering

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

+SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

The musical score for the Preface consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a red letterhead: 'P' for the first, third, and fifth staves, and 'C' for the second, fourth, and sixth staves. The lyrics are as follows:

- Staff 1 (P): The Lord be with you.
- Staff 2 (C): And al-so with you.
- Staff 3 (P): Lift up your hearts.
- Staff 4 (C): We lift them to the Lord.
- Staff 5 (P): Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- Staff 6 (C): It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: 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.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
Amen.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Sacraments of the Church cannot be separated from the Word of God. All baptized Christians who have examined themselves according to the Word of God as it is taught by this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are encouraged to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Others are encouraged to use this time for personal prayer, especially for unity throughout the Christian Church.



COMMUNION HYMNS:

"The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns" - LSB #532

"Sing With All the Saints in Glory" - LSB #671

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" - LSB #487

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Bless we the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



HYMN: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia" - LSB #463



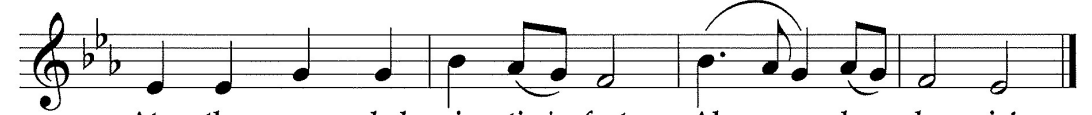
1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia! -
 2. For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Hail the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Chris - tians on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians has - ten on your way; - Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 All your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



Of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 When con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



At the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now He lives, no more to - die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now He lives, no more to - die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Postlude "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" - James Biery

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