

THE VIGIL OF EASTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

7:00pm

The red EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP service book and hymnal is used for the liturgy. Music consists of selections from “Songs & Prayers from Taizé”. These songs are “ostinatos”, which means they are short refrains, repeated to encourage contemplation. A cantor may sing the verses over the ostinato refrain.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The service begins on the steps of the church. All gather in silence. A new fire is lit. A small unlighted candle is given to each worshiper.

GREETING

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.

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.

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

Christ, yesterday and today,	✝
the beginning and the ending.	Α Ω
To Christ belongs all-time	2
and all the ages;	0
to Christ belongs glory and dominion	2
now and forever.	6
Amen.	

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

The light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

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

The procession begins, led by the assisting minister bearing the paschal candle, singing the verse through once, with the congregation joining after.

During or after the procession, light from the paschal candle may be passed until the people's candles are all lighted. The paschal candle is placed in its stand.

PROCESSION – Within our Darkest Night (Songs and Prayers from Taizé - 37)
 Within our Darkest Night /
 Dans nos Obscurités

Ostinato Refrain

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -
feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja -

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.
feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais.
Last time

EASTER PROCLAMATION - EXULTET

An assisting minister proclaims the 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.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice
we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin.
For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain,
by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the night **This is the night!**
in which, in ancient times,
you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,
and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.

This is the night **This is the night!**
in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.

This is the night **This is the night!**
in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin,
are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.

This is the night **This is the night!**
in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.
O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know
the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell!

This is the night **This is the night!**
of which it is written: “The night is as clear as the day,”
and, “then shall my night be turned into day.”
The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness;
washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen,
and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace;
and humbles earthly pride.

Therefore, in this night of grace,
receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving
for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,
reflected in the burning of this candle.
We sing the glories of this pillar of fire,
the brightness of which is not diminished
even when its light is divided and borrowed.
For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants,
have made for the substance of this candle.

This is the night **This is the night!**
in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O God,
that this candle, burning to the honor of your name,
will continue to vanquish the darkness of night
and be mingled with the lights of heaven.
May Christ the Morning Star find it burning,
that Morning Star who never sets,
that Morning Star who, rising from the grave,
faithfully sheds light on the whole human race.

And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve
with your continual protection your whole church,
giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing;

through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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. Hand-held candles may be extinguished.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and psalm.

VIGIL READINGS

Twelve readings are appointed, but we will read the four most crucial readings. After the response there is silence for reflection, followed by a prayer.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1--2:4a

Creation

FIRST PRAYER

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

SECOND READING (FOURTH): Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Deliverance at the Red Sea

SECOND PRAYER

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THIRD READING (FIFTH): Isaiah 55:1-11

Salvation freely offered to all

THIRD PRAYER

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FOURTH READING (TWELFTH): Daniel 3:1-29

Deliverance from the fiery furnace

FOURTH PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 6:3-11

A reading from Romans.

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 the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Gospel Acclamation (Taizé) (ELW 175)*

As the lights in the sanctuary are turned up, the altar candles are lighted, bells are rung, and an alleluia verse is sung.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
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GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So 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.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They 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.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” 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.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because 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.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

REFLECTION

Pastor Steven Curry Gallego

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in Christ's passover from death to new life, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God of resurrection, awaken your church from the slumber of sin and complacency. Lead us out of the shadows of the tomb to walk in newness of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Unite the will of humankind as stewards of all you have made. Lead us in speech and practice to promote the well-being of our living planet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Deliver the nations from powers and systems that threaten or harm individuals and communities. Renew our ways of living faithfully with you and with our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Make yourself known in the depths of human suffering, and give hope to those who are overwhelmed by grief and despair (*especially*). Assure them of your presence and promise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give rest to people who work through the night: nurses and doctors, emergency workers, security officers, store employees, and others (*especially*). In the rising of the sun, reveal your abundant hope to them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gather together saints from every time and place at the entrance to Christ's tomb. Dispel the doubts and fears that keep us from trusting in your resurrection life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Attend to the needs of the whole world with your saving grace, and lead us all into new life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING HYMN – Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas) (Songs and Prayers from Taizé – 49) *The assisting minister will sing the verse through once, with the congregation joining after.*

Ubi Caritas

Refrain

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8; Where charity and love are found, God is there; Taizé Community, 1978
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Remember us in your kingdom, oh Lord, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

WE ARE SENT FORTH

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN – Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord (Laudate Dominum) (Songs and Prayers from Taizé - 35)

The assisting minister will sing the verse through once, with the congregation joining after.

Laudate Dominum / Sing, Praise and Bless the Lord

Ostinato Refrain

Lau - da - te Do - mi - num, lau - da - te Do - mi - num
Sing, praise and bless the Lord. Sing, praise and bless the Lord.

1. 2.
om - nes gen - tes, al - le - lu - ia! al - le - lu - ia!
peo - ples! Na - tions! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Psalm 117, *Praise the Lord, all you peoples*; Taizé Community, 1980
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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DISMISSAL & PEACE

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

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WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Pastor Steven Curry Gallego, *Presiding Minister and Homilist*
Ben Bullock, *Assisting Minister*
Reformation Volunteers, *Lectors, Acolyte, Crucifer, Ushers*

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 5 – 10:00 AM (Resurrection of Our Lord)

Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with us on this most joyful day of the Christian year. Experience the beauty of Easter through uplifting music, Word, and Sacrament as we rejoice in the Risen Christ. All are welcome at Christ's table! The sanctuary will be adorned with lilies, and the celebration will include special music and a message of hope.

After Worship

Easter Potluck Brunch – Bring something to share!!!

Easter Egg Hunt for Children – Children are invited and welcome!!