

This is the night



Easter Vigil

April 3, 2021

5:00 pm

This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

On the night before Easter Day, Christians around the world gather to celebrate Christ's passage from death to life. The service includes strong signs: new fire in darkness, light spreading from the light of Christ, the water and word of baptism, the first resurrection meal. And powerful words: the great saving stories of Hebrew scriptures and the first Easter gospel. We keep this wondrous night in the spirit of vigil, our lamps lit, awaiting Christ's coming both now and at the end of time. Alleluia! Christ is risen! And Christ will come again.

~GATHERING~

We gather in silence and light a candle to represent the light of Christ.

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.

Beloved 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, 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: O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter Vigil so that, burning with desire for life with you, they may be found fit to take part in that festival of Light which has no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May the light of Christ who rises this night in glory scatter the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Let us pray: Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share this night in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Rejoice, all heavenly choirs of angels! Christ has conquered; the risen Savior shines upon you. This is the night in which the true lamb is slain. This is the night.

This is the night.

This is the night in which the children of Israel were led through the sea. This is the night.

This is the night.

This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are renewed in grace. This is the night.

This is the night.

The holiness of this night restores joy to those who mourn and humbles earthly pride. Therefore this night, O God, receive our praise for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. May Christ, the Morning Star, rising from the grave, shed light on the whole human race. And we pray, O God: preserve and protect your church, giving us peace, in this time and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~WORD~

VIGIL READINGS

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Creation

The reading concludes:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

FIRST RESPONSE

Let All Things Now Living

- 1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.
- 2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.
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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
Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21

The reading concludes:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND RESPONSE

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

(verses 1 & 2)

- 1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel
into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.
- 2 'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from the Light to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
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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

Isaiah 55:1-11

Salvation freely offered to all

The reading concludes:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

THIRD RESPONSE

The Lord Is My Song

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
all my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
God, the wellspring of life.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.
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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

Daniel 3:1-29

Deliverance from the fiery furnace

The reading concludes:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

FOURTH RESPONSE

All You Works of God, Bless the Lord

- 1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
All you angels, now bless the Lord;
come you heavens and pow'rs that be,
Praise the Lord and his majesty:

Refrain:

Raise your voices high,
praise and magnify,
all you works of God, bless the Lord! *(repeat)*

- 2 Sing, you sund and you moon above,
stars of heaven, now sing his love;
dew and showers, you winds that blow,
Heat and fire, you ice and snow: *Refrain*

- 3 Frost of winter with song so cold,
dews of summer, your song unfold;
light and darkness, you day and night,
clouds of thunder, you lightnings bright: *Refrain*

- 4 Hills and mountains, now sing his worth,
all you green things that grow on earth;
seas and rivers, you springs and wells,
beasts and cattle, you birds and whales: *Refrain*

- 5 Come, humanity, sing along,
sing, you people of God, a song;
priests and servants, your Lord now bless,
Join, you spirits and souls at rest: *Refrain*

- 6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;
all you humble, his praise impart;
God the Father and Son adore,
bless the Spirit forevermore! *Refrain*

Text: Stephen P. Starke, paraphrase of Song of the Three 35-65

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk song, adapt. Doreen Potter

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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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Beloved of God, on this most holy night, the Church keeps vigil, awaiting the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul teaches us that by baptism, we were buried with Christ and lay dead in order that as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendor of the Father, so we should set our feet on the new path of life. Therefore, now that the struggle of Lent is over, let us renew the promises made at our baptism.

I ask you, do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

You have made profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

People of God, you have made your profession of faith and renewed the vows of your baptism. By water, you were cleansed and brought to newness of life in the Spirit. May God grant that you may feel and know the grace and favor which God has given you through your baptism.

Amen.

HYMN

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

- 1 We are baptized in Christ Jesus,
we are baptized in his death;
that as Christ is raised victorious,
we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united
in a dreadful death like his,
we will all be reunited, for he lives.
- 2 In the water and the witness,
in the breaking of the bread,
in the waiting arms of Jesus
who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning
from the ashes of our past;
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker
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GOSPEL READING:

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!

MEDITATION

HYMN OF THE DAY:

The Day of Resurrection

(verses 1 & 2)

- 1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.
- 2 Let hearts be purged of evil
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light,
and list'ning to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing,
may raise the glad refrain.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

On this most holy night, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, those in need, and all the members of God's family.

Each petition concludes, "Lord, in your mercy,"
We invite you to respond, "hear our prayer."

The prayers conclude:

To you, living and loving God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one with whom we have been raised to new life, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

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 we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your holy name.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing.

Communion will be received at your seats. Having received the elements as you entered worship, you will take the chalice, and when directed by the pastor, you will remove the bottom cover to receive the bread. The pastor will say "Body of Christ given for you," and you will eat the bread. When directed by the pastor, you will remove the top cover to receive the wine or juice. The pastor will say, "Blood of Christ shed for you," and you will drink the wine or juice.

For those who are worshiping with us online, we invite you to have bread and wine or juice prepared and to join us in the celebration of the sacrament.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

~SENDING~

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

(verses 3 & 4)

3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph
and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,
their notes of gladness blend;
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end!

4 All praise to God the Father,
all praise to Christ the Son,
all praise to God the Spirit,
eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number
fall down before the throne,
and honor, pow'r, and glory
ascribe to God alone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Offering: *This service is a continuation of the service begun on Maundy Thursday. Therefore, there is no offering specifically listed in this service; however, we give thanks for your continued giving toward the ministry of the church. All offering may be placed in the box on the entry table or sent to the church through the mail, through automatic withdrawal, or through the Tithe.ly app on our website during these days.*

Join us for the culmination of our joyful Easter celebration by participating in worship tomorrow. An online Easter service will be premiered at 8:00 am on our Facebook page and website (www.faithlutheranelldridge.com). In-person worship will be indoors at 8:00 am and in our outdoor chapel at 10:30 am.



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these
people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Cindy Staebel	Joni King	Ed Geest
Arnie Lindaman	Sally Puls	Bob Morehead
Carol Judge	Ed Stoltz	Matt Weibel
Michelle Weltzin-	Pat Hoffman	Nancy Nichols
Trainor	June Dierks	Craig
Ron McFate	Ann Kuehl	Gary
Sue Oetzman	Jensen Spencer	Lois
Phyllis Hamann	Michael Schafer	Bob
Kristina Gehrls	Karen Muetzel	Algean
Nancy Meyer	Peyton Langebartles	Carolynn
Karen Rathjen	Sherri Westemeier	John
Carolyn Scheibe	Meyer Mixdorf	Mary



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