

*Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers!
Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult all creation around God's throne!*



Jesus Christ is risen!

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Vigil of Easter – April 16, 2022**

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***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 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 in which the darkness of sin
has been purged away by the rising brightness.

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 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 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 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.



A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**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.**

Candles may be extinguished.

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

^{1:1}In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

FIRST RESPONSE: Psalm 136:1–9, 23–26

*Sung responsively; the congregation sings the verses in **bold**.*

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

²**Give thanks to the | God of gods,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.**

³Give thanks to the | Lord of lords,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

⁴**who alone | does great wonders,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;**

⁵who by wisdom | made the heavens,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

⁶**who spread out the earth up- | on the waters,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;**

⁷who made | the great lights—
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

⁸**the sun to gov- | ern the day,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;**

⁹the moon and the stars to gov- | ern the night,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

²³**who remembered us in our | low estate,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;**

²⁴and rescued us | from our enemies,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

²⁵**who gives food | to all creatures,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.**

²⁶Give thanks to the | God of heaven,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

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: Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21

^{14:10}As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

¹⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

^{15:20}Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

SECOND RESPONSE: Exodus 15:2–13, 17–18

*The cantor sings the refrain, and all repeat it;
the congregation sings the verses in **bold**.*



²The LORD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation;
this is my God—this God I will praise; my father’s God—this God I | will exalt.

³The LORD | is a warrior;
the LORD | is his name.

⁴**The LORD hurled Pharaoh’s chariots and army in- | to the sea;
his picked officers were sunk in | the Red Sea.**

⁵**The floods | covered them;
they went down into the depths | like a stone. R**

⁶Your right hand, O LORD, glori- | ous in power—
your right hand, O LORD, shat- | tered the enemy.

⁷In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your | adversaries;
you sent out your fury, it consumed | them like stubble.

⁸**At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood up | in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart | of the sea.**

⁹**The enemy said, “I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil,
my desire shall have its | fill of them. I will draw my sword, my hand | shall
destroy them.” R**

¹⁰You blew with your wind, the sea | covered them;
they sank like lead in the | mighty waters.

¹¹“Who is like you, O LORD, a- | mong the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, | doing wonders?”

¹²**You stretched out your right hand, the earth | swallowed them.**

¹³**In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;
you guided them by your strength to your ho- | ly abode.**

¹⁷**You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession,
the place, O LORD, that you | made your abode,
the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.**

The LORD will reign forev- | er and ever. R

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

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
 and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.
⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

THIRD RESPONSE

Your Word, O Lord, Is Gentle Dew



1 Your word, O Lord, is gen - tle dew to suf - f'ring
2 Your word is like a flam - ing sword, a sharp and
3 Your word, a won - drous star, sup - plies true guid - ance



hearts that want it; oh, shed your heav'n-ly balm a - new, to all your
might - y ar - row, a wedge that cleaves the rock; that word can pierce through
when we need it; it points to Christ and so makes wise all sim - ple



gar - den grant it; re-freshed by you, may ev - 'ry tree bud forth and
heart and mar - row. Oh, send it forth o'er all the earth, to purge un -
hearts that heed it; let not its light e'er sink in night, but keep it



blos - som gai - ly and fruit and seed bring dai - ly.
righ - tcous leav - en and cleanse all hearts for heav - en.
bright-ly burn - ing, and fill our deep - est yearn - ing.

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

¹King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, ⁴the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire." ⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, ²⁰and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. ²¹So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. ²²Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." ²⁵He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god."

²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

²⁷And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. ²⁸Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

FOURTH RESPONSE: SONG OF THE THREE 35–65

The congregation then sings the refrain while the verses are spoken by the reader



Praise and mag-ni-fy the Lord for-ev - er.

All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord **R**
You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord;
you heavens, bless the Lord;
all you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord.
You sun and moon, bless the Lord;
you stars of heaven, bless the Lord;
you rain and dew, bless the Lord. **R**
You winds of God, bless the Lord;
you fire and heat, bless the Lord;
you winter and summer, bless the Lord.
You dews and falling snow, bless the Lord;
you frost and cold, bless the Lord;
you ice and snow, bless the Lord. **R**
You nights and days, bless the Lord;
you light and darkness, bless the Lord;
you lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord.
Let the earth bless the Lord;
you mountains and hills, bless the Lord;
all you green things that grow on the earth, bless the Lord. **R**
You wells and springs, bless the Lord;
you seas and rivers, bless the Lord;
you whales and all that swim in the waters, bless the Lord.
All you birds of the air, bless the Lord;
all you wild animals and cattle, bless the Lord;
all you children of mortals, bless the Lord. **R**
You people of God, bless the Lord;
you priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;
you servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.
You spirits and souls of the righteous, bless the Lord;
you holy and humble in heart, bless the Lord;
let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **R**

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

We were incorporated into the death of Jesus Christ in baptism and so were liberated from the dominion of sin. We also anticipate that we will be incorporated into the resurrection of Christ and so will be liberated from the hold death has over our mortal bodies.

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 HYMN *We are Baptized in Christ Jesus* (ELW 451)**



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit - ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
 3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
 in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
 glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir-it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
 God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;
 as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo-ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
 in a song that has no end - ing. A - men.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

The cantor sings the alleluias, and all repeat them.

***GOSPEL: John 20:1-18**

This morning began with confusion: the stone was moved and the tomb was empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.
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

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!* (ELW 382)**

*During the hymn, those who wish may move to the chancel, gathering around the font.
Children are especially encouraged to come forward.*



1. Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
2. Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent - en fast is o'er;
3. Christ is ris-en! All the sor - row that last eve - ning round him lay
4. Christ is ris-en! Hence - forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re - turns to life once more;
now has found a glo - rious mor - row in the ris - ing of to - day.
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed o - ver all.



Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
death and hell be - fore him bend - ing see him rise, the vic - tor now;
See the grave its first - fruits giv - ing, spring - ing up from ho - ly ground;
All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our trem - bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
an - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.
Christ was dead but now is liv - ing; he was lost, be he is found.
hail the day of re - sur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

***PRESENTATION**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

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.**

You have made public 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.

Let us pray.

**We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth,
cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.
Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit:**

**the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Renew it and unite your people in mission. Heal the wounds caused by division and empower the ministry of all women and men who proclaim the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth. For oceans and woodlands, prairies and mountains, lakes and rivers. For creatures who move upon the land, in the waters, and through the air. Make us good stewards of creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations. For those we name as friends and those we call our enemies. For all who govern. For those who work for peace and those who protect the weak and vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. For those affected by flooding, earthquake, windstorm, fire, or drought. For refugees and those who are persecuted for their faith. For the grieving and those who are sick especially Jeff, Larry, Bob, Katie, Marcia, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Chuck, Henry, George, Roy, Pastor Storm, Karen, and Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our heart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. For the newly baptized and for those who affirm their faith. For pastors, teachers, and spiritual mentors. For those who seek a deeper relationship with you and with the church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in the promise of resurrection and life, we remember those who have died. Bring us all to the fullness of your glory where your saints sing alleluias without end. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *We Know That Christ is Raised* (ELW 449)

All stand for the last verse as the gifts are brought forward.



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of glory,

receive these gifts and the offering of our lives.

As Jesus was lifted up from the earth,

draw us to your heart in the midst of this world.

Bring all creation from bondage to freedom,

from darkness to light, and from death to life;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*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 name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might;
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness into the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Now let us feast this Easter day

on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

HYMN *In the Garden*

1. I come to the gar-den a - lone, while the dew is still on the ro - ses; and the
 2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice, is so sweet the birds hush their sing-ing, and the
 3. I'd stay in the gar-den with him though the night a-round me be fall-ing, but he

voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear, the Son of God dis - clos - es.
 mel - o - dy that he gave to me with - in my heart is ring - ing. And he
 bids me go; through the voice of woe his voice to me is call - ing.

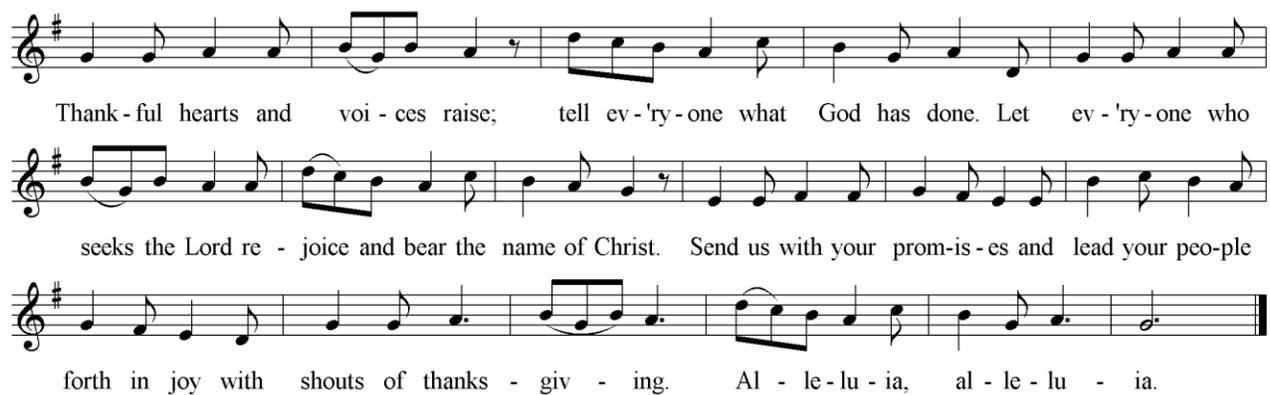
walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, and the

joy we share, as we tar - ry there, none oth - er has ev - er known.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.
Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*



Thank - ful hearts and voi - ces raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has done. Let ev - 'ry - one who
seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple
forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.
Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection
that we may show your glory to all the world;
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children
through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.
Amen.

May God, who through the waters of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life,
make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever.

Amen.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the
Redeemer,
bring you to your eternal inheritance.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!* (ELW 369)**



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 Christ, 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!

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Assisting Minister: Matt Claus