

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

The Vigil of Easter

April 19, 2025

8:00 p.m.

*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)



THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO MADE US

Good Friday, the day of our Lord's crucifixion, death, and burial, was certainly a dark day, and not only emotionally. St. Matthew describes the actual darkness during midday. Even the creation itself turned dark. How could anyone expect a normal night of sleep after such a great tragedy? St. John tells us that after that silent Saturday, Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb early on the first day of the week (Sunday) while it was still dark (John 20:1). Christians have from ancient times concluded the Lenten discipline with a night vigil, sometimes through the darkness of the entire Holy Saturday night until Sunday sunrise to celebrate the "Son-rise" of Jesus' resurrection. And so the great Vigil of Easter is celebrated, centered on the themes of darkness to light and God's rescue of His people by His mighty arm throughout Old Testament history and now through the Word and Sacraments of Christ. With special attention to the first Reading from Genesis 1, tonight's celebration embraces the hand of the Lord at work in all of creation, redemption, and sanctification—the entire life of the Christian.

Rev. Eric J. Edwards ✠ **Rev. Christopher Beck** ✠ **Rev. Liwei Sui**

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✠ ✠ ✠ SERVICE OF LIGHT ✠ ✠ ✠

KINDLING OF THE NEW FIRE

We remember how often God has chosen fire to symbolize His presence: freeing Israel from slavery, the tongues of fire at the day of Pentecost. Everyone receives a candle; a new fire is kindled.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which Our Lord Jesus passed over from death into life, we are gathered here in vigil and in 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.

P 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 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.

C Amen.

PREPARATION OF THE PASCHAL FIRE

*The paschal candle will symbolize the presence of the risen Christ among us throughout the Easter season.
The cross is traced on the paschal candle.*

P Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

The Greek letters Alpha and Omega are traced on the paschal candle.

P the Alpha and the Omega.

The year is traced on the paschal candle.

P His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

Five wax nails are placed into the paschal candle.

P By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

The paschal candle is lit.

- P** May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.
- P** Let us pray.
Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night 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.
- C** Amen.

*All light their candles from the paschal candle and follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church.
Please remain standing as you reach your seat.*

The bearer of the paschal candle stops at the entrance to the nave.

LUX CHRISTI



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

The bearer of the paschal candle stops in the middle of the nave.



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

When all have processed, the bearer of the paschal candle lifts the paschal candle high.



The light of Christ.



Thanks be to God.

EXSULTET

Rejoice now, all you heav'nly 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 the house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

PREFACE DIALOGUE

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

- P** 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 the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

All extinguish their candles.

Please be seated.

✠ ✠ ✠ SERVICE OF READINGS ✠ ✠ ✠

INTRODUCTION TO READINGS

- P** In 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 – *Genesis 1:1–2:3*

A A reading from Genesis, the first and second chapters.

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And 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 an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens 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.

¹¹And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. 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 expanse of the heavens 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 expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on 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 swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God 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 according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷So God created man in His own image,
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them.

²⁸And God 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 heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on 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 heavens 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. ³¹And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, 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 the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creation.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P 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.

C Amen.

THE FLOOD – *Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13*

A A reading from Genesis, the seventh, eighth, and ninth chapters.

¹Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, ³and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. . . .

¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹²And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind,

and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. . . .

^{8:6}At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. ⁹But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. ¹¹And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

¹³In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. ¹⁴In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. ¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶“Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” ¹⁸So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. . . .

^{9:8}Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“Behold, I establish My covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish My covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.”

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and perverse generation, and yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ’s Body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

ISRAEL’S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA – *Exodus 14:10–15:1*

A A reading from Exodus, the fourteenth and fifteenth chapters.

¹⁰When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work 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 be silent.”

¹⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

¹⁹Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²²And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.

^{15:1} Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,
“I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea.”

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES – *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

A A reading from Ezekiel, the thirty-seventh chapter.

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

JONAH PREACHES TO NINEVAH – *Jonah 3:1-10*

A A reading from Jonah, the third chapter.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

⁶The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

THE FIERY FURNACE – *Daniel 3*

A A reading from Daniel, the third chapter.

¹King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast

into a burning fiery furnace.”⁷ Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. ⁹They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. ¹¹And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²²Because the king’s order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

²⁶Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!” Then 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 cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. ²⁸Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants, who trusted in Him, and set aside 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 speaks anything 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 rescue in this way.”
³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

CANTICLE – LSB 931 – Song of the Three Men

The cantor sings the refrain once and the congregation repeats it.

The congregation repeats the refrain after the verses.



All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord—
praise Him and magnify Him forever.

You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord: **REFRAIN**

You heavens, bless the Lord;
all you waters above the heavens, bless the Lord;
all you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord: **REFRAIN**

You sun and moon, bless the Lord;
you stars of heaven, bless the Lord;
all you showers and dew, bless the Lord: **REFRAIN**

All you winds of God, bless the Lord;
you fire and heat, bless the Lord;
you winter and summer, bless the Lord: **REFRAIN**

You dews and frost, bless the Lord;
you frost and cold, bless the Lord;
you ice and snow, bless the Lord: **REFRAIN**

You nights and days, bless the Lord;
you light and darkness, bless the Lord;
you lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord: **REFRAIN**

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: **REFRAIN**

You wells and springs, bless the Lord;
you rivers and seas, bless the Lord;
you whales and all who move in the waters, bless the Lord: **REFRAIN**

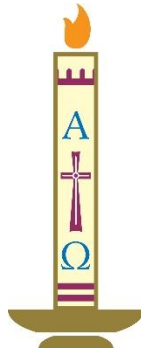
All you birds of the air, bless the Lord;
all you beasts and cattle, bless the Lord;
all you children of men, bless the Lord: **REFRAIN**

O Israel, bless the Lord;
you priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;
you servants of the Lord, bless the Lord: **REFRAIN**

You spirits and souls of the righteous, bless the Lord;
you pure and humble of heart, bless the Lord;
let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit: **REFRAIN**

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✠ ✠ ✠ REMEMBRANCE OF HOLY BAPTISM ✠ ✠ ✠



BAPTISMAL ADDRESS

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

THE FLOOD PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G Amen.

RENUNCIATION

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| P | Do you renounce the devil? | C | Yes, I renounce him. |
| P | Do you renounce all his works? | C | Yes, I renounce them. |
| P | Do you renounce all his ways? | C | Yes, I renounce them. |

PROFESSION OF FAITH

- | | |
|----------|--|
| P | Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth? |
| C | Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. |
| P | Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son? |
| C | 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. |
| P | Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? |
| C | 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. |

BLESSING

- | | |
|----------|---|
| P | The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting. |
| C | Amen. |
| P | Peace ✠ be with you. |
| C | Amen. |

✠ ✠ ✠ SERVICE OF PRAYER ✠ ✠ ✠

Please stand.

LITANY OF THE RESURRECTION

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| A | O Lord, | C | have mercy. |
| A | O Christ, | C | have mercy. |
| A | O Lord, | C | have mercy. |
| A | Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, | | |
| C | hear us. | | |

- A** Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
C **have mercy on us.**
- A** By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- A** By Your victory over sin and death,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- A** By the majesty of Your risen body,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
- A** We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, Lord Jesus.**
- A** That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
- A** That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been served by You,

C grant us, good Lord.

A That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem,
together with all the saints,

C grant us, good Lord.

A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy on us.

A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy on us.

A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

A O Lord,

C have mercy.

A O Christ,

C have mercy.

A O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠ ✠ ✠

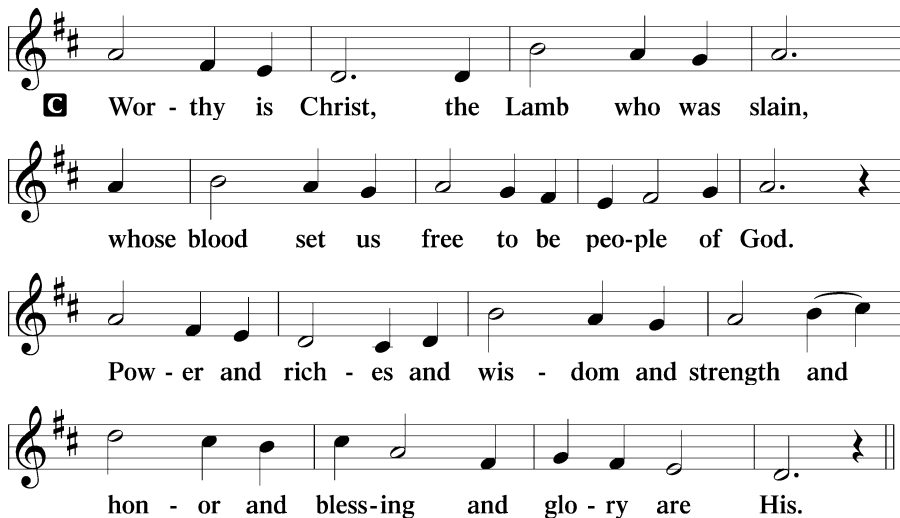
EASTER ACCLAMATION

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE – LSB 171 – Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9

Cantor: This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia!



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and
hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

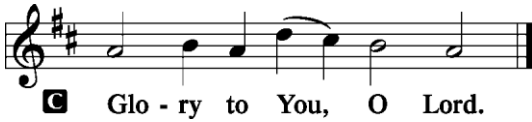
P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

P Let us pray. 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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL – *Mark 16:1-8*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.



¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. ⁷But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.” ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



HOMILY

✠ ✠ ✠ SACRAMENT ✠ ✠ ✠ LSB – 177

PREFACE – *2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136*





C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS – *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



C 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** Amen.

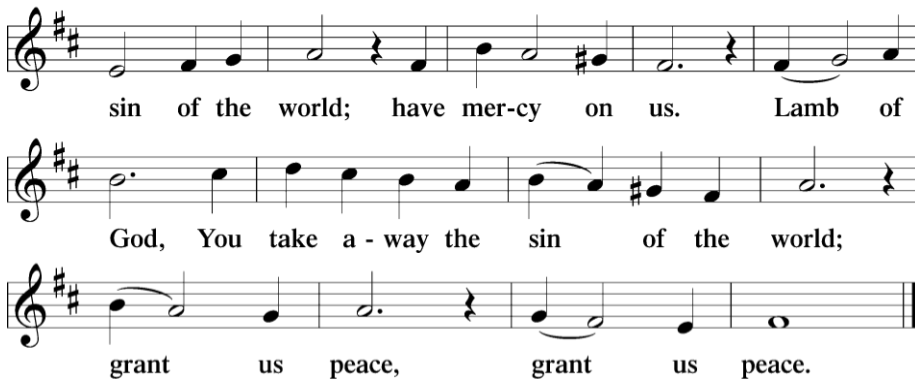
AGNUS DEI – LSB 180 – *John 1:29*



C 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

LSB 483 – With High Delight Let Us Unite

To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His
free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set
ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.'" data-bbox="31 351 744 889"/>

1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great
2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord
ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,
all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van-quished lie;
ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed
Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us
His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall
To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His
free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set
ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion."

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LSB 481 – Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom



1 Scat - ter the dark - ness, break the gloom; Sun, re - veal an
 2 Bear - ing the stan - dard from on high As the Lamb of
 3 Ban - ners of tri - umph, be un - furled! Trum - pets, sound through-



emp - ty tomb Shin - ing with joy for all our sor - rows,
 God to die; He who for us, so cruel - ly treat - ed,
 out the world! Cry - ing and sighs, give way to sing - ing:



Hope and peace for all to - mor - rows, Life un - e -
 Lives a - gain— our foes de - feat - ed! Where is your
 Life from death, our Lord is bring - ing! Let there be-



clipsed by doubt and dread: Christ has ris - en from the dead!
 sting, O death and grave? Christ has shown His strength to save!
 gin the ju - bi - lee— Christ has gained the vic - to - ry!

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COLLECT

P Let us pray.

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 the 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.

C Amen.

BLESSING

A Let us bless the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

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

C Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 487 – Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad - ness!
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
 4 For to - day a-mong His own Christ ap-peared, be - stow - ing
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry To our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,
 And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;
 With the roy - al feast of feasts Comes its joy to ren - der;
 His deep peace, which ev - er - more Pass - es hu - man know - ing.
 Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark por - tal.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
 Comes to glad - den faith-ful hearts Which with true af - fec - tion
 Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal
 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 Wel - come in un-wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
 Nor the watch - ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.
 God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!

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The “Three Day” (Triduum) Service that began on Maundy Thursday is now completed! We return home to rest until we gather again for the Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord, tomorrow morning.

Please return your candle to the box located in the narthex on your way out.



THOSE SERVING TONIGHT

Rev. Eric Edwards, *Faith Lutheran Church*
 Rev. Timothy Winterstein, *University Lutheran Church*
 Rev. Christopher Beck, *Faith Lutheran Church*
 Rev. Liwei Sui, *Faith Lutheran Church*
 Dr. Priscilla Gabriel
 Kathy Powell

presiding minister
preacher
assisting minister
assisting minister
organist
cantor