

Easter Vigil
Saturday, April 11, 2020



Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Church!

We are “a worshipping and caring Christian community, sharing God's compassion and grace with all people in need of love and acceptance within this congregation, the community, and the world!”

INTRODUCTION

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

Gathering

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

LIGHTING THE NEW FIRE

PRAYER

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

LIGHTING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

PROCESSION

The procession begins, led by the assisting minister bearing the paschal candle. Once inside, light from the candle is shared with all. At three separate times, the procession stops, and the following response is read.

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Once the worship center is reached, the paschal candle is placed in its stand. Please wait to extinguish your candle, until after the Easter Proclamation is sung.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

“Christ, Be Our Light”

Verses



1. This is the night of new be - gin - nings. This is the
2. This is the night Christ our re - deem - er rose from the
3. Now will the fire kin - dled in dark - ness burn to dis -
4. Sing of the hope deep - er than dy - ing. Sing of the
5. In - to this world morn - ing is break - ing. All of God's

1. night when heav - en meets earth. This is the night _____
2. grave tri - um - phant and free, leav - ing the tomb of
3. pel the shad - ows of night. Star of the morn - ing,
4. pow'r _____ strong - er than death. Sing of the love _____
5. peo - ple, lift up your voice. Cry out with joy, _____

1. filled with God's glo - ry, prom - ise of our new birth!
2. e - vil and dark - ness, emp - ty for all to see.
3. Je - sus our Sav - ior, you are the world's true light!
4. end - less as heav - en, dawn - ing through - out the earth.
5. tell out the sto - ry, all of the earth re - joice.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

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.**

Word

FIRST VIGIL READING

Creation

Genesis 1:1–2:4a

RESPONSE

Psalm 136:1

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, **for his steadfast love endures 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 VIGIL READING

The Flood

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

RESPONSE

Psalm 46:7

The Lord of hosts is with us: **the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

SECOND PRAYER

O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness: Look in mercy upon your church, a wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world come to see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through the one from whom they first took being, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THIRD VIGIL READING

The Testing of Abraham

Genesis 22:1-18

RESPONSE

Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life. **In your presence, there is fullness of joy.**

THIRD PRAYER

God and Father of all the faithful, you promised your servant Abraham that he would become the father of many nations, and through this gift of faith you increase your chosen people throughout the world. Form us anew by the death of your Son, that we may joyfully accept the new life of grace given through him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FOURTH VIGIL READING

Israel's Deliverance

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

RESPONSE

Exodus 15:1

I will sing to the Lord, **who has triumphed gloriously.**

FOURTH 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.**

FIFTH VIGIL READING*The Valley of the Dry Bones***Ezekiel 37:1-14****RESPONSE***Psalm 143:11*For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. **In your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.****FIFTH 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.****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. A reading from Romans.*¹Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?²Therefore 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. ³For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.⁴We 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. ⁵For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁶But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁷We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ⁸The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ⁹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Symphonia Sirenium*, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909
Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823-1889**GOSPEL RESPONSE**The holy gospel according to the 20th chapter of John. **Glory to you, O Lord.****GOSPEL****John 20:1-18***John's Gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.*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.**

SERMON

Whew! We made it! Easter is here!

And I don’t know about you, but it seems to have taken longer than usual to get here. And not just because of the lengthy scripture readings that we’ve shared as a part of this service. Maybe it’s also because of how drastically life has changed for all of us over the past couple of months.

In a lot of ways, in spite of the fact that, if we wanted it, we’ve been able to access information about the progress of the virus not only in our own country, but all around the world, it feels like the world has gotten a lot smaller. That life has gotten narrower. That we can measure it in terms of the walls that confine us, day after day.

And you and I both know that we’ve managed to let our imaginations get the better of us. We imagine the worst, and that leads us deeper into fear.

But despair, and fear, and the worst is not the message of Easter. It’s not even close.

In fact, the message of Easter is exactly the opposite. The message of Easter is: God is bigger.

Matthew’s gospel is the only one to give us a description of the stone actually being rolled away from the entrance to Jesus’ tomb. In the other gospels, on the very first Easter morning, what happens is that the first witnesses to the resurrection show up and discover that the stone is already gone. But in Matthew, what happens is nothing short of the favorite word of teenagers from years gone by: Awesome!

There’s a great earthquake. And then, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary get to actually see an angel come down out of Heaven and roll back the stone. And Matthew even tells us that the angel’s appearance is “like lightning.” There is absolutely nothing subtle or understated about this moment. It’s overwhelming! And the guards faint away like dead men. But this is how the women are prepared to receive the startling news that Jesus is risen from the dead.

And this is also how Matthew wants to show us that what is happening here is not even remotely ordinary or every day. This is something that God has done.

And our God is bigger.

God is bigger than death. And God is certainly bigger than the Corona virus. And we belong to him.

You know, as Lutherans, we make a big deal out of the Small Catechism. And that’s appropriate. But there’s also a lot of good stuff to be found in the Heidelberg Catechism, which comes out of the Reformed tradition, and came along a few years later. As a case in point, I’d like to quote to you Question and Answer 1 from the Heidelberg Catechism. “What is your only comfort in life and death? That I am not my own, but that I belong — in body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.”

We don’t really know what’s going to happen next. But then, I guess we never did. Here’s the important thing: we belong to God. In life and in death, we belong to him. Our lives are not our own. They are in the hands of the one who brought life out of death and joy out of sorrow. And this Easter, as strange as things may be for us, we can still rejoice. For he is risen. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY *“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 The strife is o’er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor’s
2 The pow’rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav’n’s high
5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death’s sting free your



tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Presentation

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of your baptism.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these brothers and sisters, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

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. Amen.**

Affirmation of Baptism

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 each other 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 us, 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

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of resurrection, this is the night when your holy church gathers around fire and water, bread and wine, story and celebration. Make us eager to go into all the world with the news that Christ is alive and death is conquered. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of resurrection, in the beginning you created all things and declared them good. Where floods and fires threaten to overwhelm and destroy, speak peace against the chaos. Set rainbows in the skies as signs of your faithfulness. Shine your glory through each twinkling star. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of resurrection, you are deliverance for people enslaved by conflict, corruption, and inequality. Grant wisdom to governments and world leaders. Lead them in the way of righteousness and along paths of justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of resurrection, hold vigil with all who watch and wait this night: those sitting beside dying loved ones, those working the night shift at hospitals and care centers, emergency first responders, those awaiting test results or diagnoses, those who are in labor, and those who long for healing, especially those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of resurrection, stir up the waters of salvation and bring renewed life to all who receive or affirm the gift of baptism this night. Claim us as your beloved children, clothe us in the garments of salvation, and raise us from death to life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of resurrection, you promise to breathe new life into our dry bones and to raise us up in hope. Give new hope to all people affected by the spread of COVID-19. Protect those who are sick and those at high risk of infection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of resurrection, bless the memory of all the faithful witnesses who boldly proclaimed, "We have seen the Lord!" Give us confidence that because Christ has been raised, we too will be raised to new life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

Meal

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

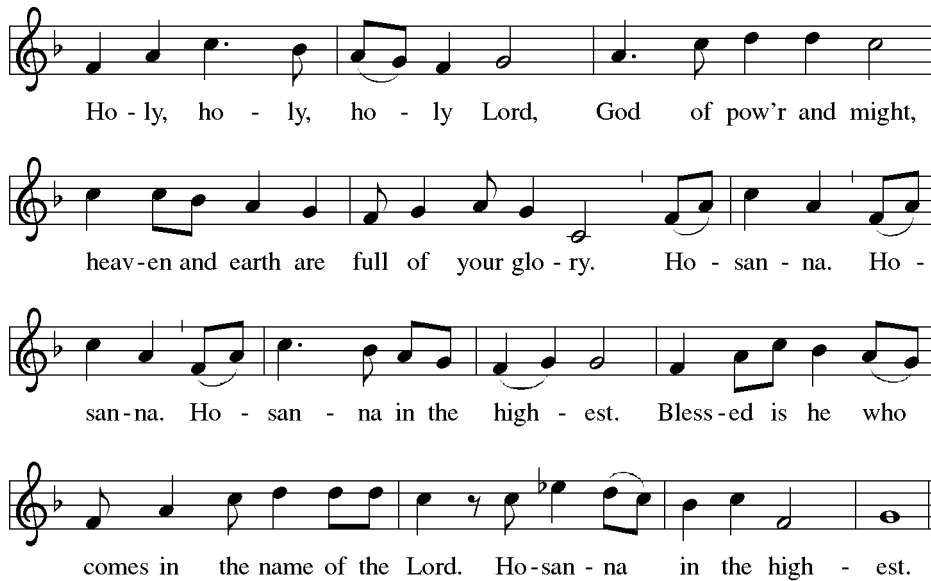
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the music. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Come to this table where you are known and loved.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 strife. “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

"Taste and See"

Refrain - All



Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,



taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Leader or All



1 I will bless the Lord at all times.
2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with . . me.
3 Wor-ship . . . the Lord, all you peo-ple.



Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;
To - geth - er let us all praise God's name.
You'll want for noth - ing . . . if you ask.



my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord;
I called the Lord, . . who an - swered me;
Taste and see . . . that the Lord is good;

Refrain



for God has been so good to me.
from all my trou - bles I was set free.
in God we need put all our trust.

Text: James E. Moore Jr., b. 1951, based on Ps. 34

Music: TASTE AND SEE, James E. Moore Jr.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's 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.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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