



*Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us
from the burning fiery furnace.*

Daniel 3:17

The Great Vigil of Easter

April 12, 2020

Luther Memorial Chapel & University Student Center
Shorewood, Wisconsin

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER: April 12, 2020

SERVICE OF LIGHT

We gather in the narthex. A 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 to life, we are gathered here in vigil and 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.

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.

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

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

C Amen.

The numbers of the year 2020 are traced on the candle.

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

C Amen.

Five wax nails are put into the candle, saying:

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

C Amen.

The paschal candle is lighted from the fire.

P May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

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.

Small candles are lighted from the paschal candle. The people process into the church. Please take your place in the first seven pews on the right side, and then the first pews on the left side. Remain standing.

*The following responses are chanted:
At the entrance of the nave:*

A The light of Christ.

Musical notation for 'The light of Christ.' in G-flat major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of four notes: G-flat, A-flat, B-flat, and C. Vertical bar lines are placed above the first and third notes.

C Thanks be to God.

Musical notation for 'Thanks be to God.' in G-flat major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of four notes: G-flat, A-flat, B-flat, and C. Vertical bar lines are placed above the first, third, and fourth notes.

In the middle of the nave:

A The light of Christ.

Musical notation for 'The light of Christ.' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of four notes: G, A, B, and C. Vertical bar lines are placed above the first and third notes.

C Thanks be to God.

Musical notation for 'Thanks be to God.' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of four notes: G, A, B, and C. Vertical bar lines are placed above the first, third, and fourth notes.

After all have reached their places and the candle is lifted high:

A The light of Christ.

Musical notation for 'The light of Christ.' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of four notes: G, A, B, and C. Vertical bar lines are placed above the first and third notes.

C Thanks be to God.

Musical notation for 'Thanks be to God.' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of four notes: G, A, B, and C. Vertical bar lines are placed above the first, third, and fourth notes.

After the paschal candle is placed in its stand, the Easter Proclamation is made:

A Rejoice now, all you heavenly 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 this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people!

D The Lord be with you.

Musical notation for 'The Lord be with you.' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of eight notes: G, A, B, C, B, A, G, and C. Vertical bar lines are placed above the first, third, and fifth notes.

C And with your spir - it.

Musical notation for 'And with your spirit.' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of eight notes: G, A, B, C, B, A, G, and C. Vertical bar lines are placed above the first, third, and fifth notes. A bass line is provided below the melody.

Lift up your hearts.

Musical notation for 'Lift up your hearts.' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of eight notes: G, A, B, C, B, A, G, and C. Vertical bar lines are placed above the first, third, and fifth notes.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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 sins 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 towards 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 this 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 gave light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

Candles are extinguished as congregation is seated.

SERVICE OF READINGS

After each reading and brief silence for reflection, the collect is prayed.

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

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

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

P 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

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

P 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.**

Job Confesses the Redeemer — Job 19:20-27

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

P Almighty God, our great Redeemer, in the sacrifice of Your Son You put to death our wretched flesh, and in His rising restored our life. Grant that we

may always cling to Christ by faith in this life that at the last we may rejoice to stand in our own flesh and see You face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The Gathering of God's People — Zephaniah 3:12-20

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

P Look in mercy, O Lord, upon Your faithful people, and by Word and Spirit bring to completion that good work which You have begun in them. Let all the world see and know that what has been cast down is raised up, what has grown old is made new, and that the work You have begun in us is being brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Fiery Furnace — Daniel 3:1-30

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

P 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.

THE LIGHTS ARE PARTIALLY RAISED.

Stand.

Canticle

All You Works of the Lord



All you works of the Lord, | bless the Lord—*
praise Him and magnify Him for- | ever.

**You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord;*
you heavens, | bless the Lord;**

all you waters above the 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;**

all you showers and dew, | bless the Lord,*
all you winds of God, | bless the Lord;

**you fire and heat, | bless the Lord;*
you winter and summer, | bless the Lord.**

You dews and frost, | bless the Lord;*
you frost and cold, | bless the Lord.

**You ice and snow, | bless the Lord;*
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;*
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.**

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;*
O Israel, | 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 pure and humble of heart, | bless the Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit:**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

P On this holiest of nights the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." (Romans 6:3-11)

P 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 according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sins in us, which have 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.

C Amen.

Renunciation of the Devil and Confession of Faith

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.**

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

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.**

P Almighty God, the 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

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 has 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 five hundred 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 others 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.**

P O Lord,
C **Have mercy. Amen.**

The altar candles are lit; the lights are fully raised; the bells are rung.

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

If you are a member of a sister LCMS congregation communing regularly in your home church, we invite you to commune with us today. If you are not, Pastor would love to speak with you after the service about communing here in the future.

P Alleluia. Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia!

1
Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross,
Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2
Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heav'nly host,
Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you. **C** **And with your spirit.**

P 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, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

John 20:1–18 is read.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Preface

P The Lord be with you. **C** **And with your spirit.**

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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore

with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer, Words of Institution

Pax Domini

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

Distribution Hymns 487, 633, 478

P 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 our 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.

P 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.

Stand.

Hymn to Depart

All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding 462

Please join us for breakfast downstairs in the parish hall.

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