

The Great Vigil of Easter

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
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Divine Services: Sunday 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.; Wylie 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.; Wylie 11:15 a.m.

The Holy Triduum: The Great Vigil of Easter

Celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Our Baptism

Saturday, March 31, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter is a service of Scripture, psalmody, and prayer for the purpose of waiting and watching for the Lord's deliverance. As the sun goes down, it is the end of the Sabbath during which our Lord Jesus rested in His tomb – at some time after nightfall, the Lord indeed rose from the dead, it being the third day, and the great "eighth day", the day of the new creation in Christ. Tonight we gather together to wait in expectation for the news of Christ's resurrection and His coming among us.

Visitors, please take note that you should speak to our pastor before communing this evening.

+ SERVICE OF LIGHT +

Invitation

- 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 Sacrament, we share in His victory over death.

Collect

- 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.

G **Amen.**

The paschal candle is lit.

Blessing of the Paschal Candle

- 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.

G **Amen.**

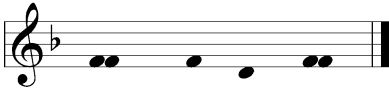
All light their candles from the paschal candle and follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church.

Lux Christi

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



P The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.

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



P The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.

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



P The light of Christ.



C Thanks be to God.

Exsultet

- P** 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 this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



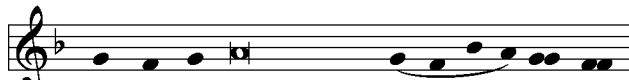
C And al - so with you.



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.

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 A - men.

All extinguish their candles, please be seated.

+ SERVICE OF 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 ...

Following the reading...

- 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...

Following the reading...

- 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...

Following the reading...

- 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 Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-30

- A** A reading from Daniel, the third chapter...

Following the reading...

- 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.

Stand

Canticle: *Benedicite Omnia Opera*

"All You Works of the Lord" (congregation sings the refrain)

LSB 931

The paschal candle is carried to the baptismal font.

+ SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM +

- 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.

- 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.

- C** Amen.

- 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, 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.**
- 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.**

The paschal candle is returned to its stand.

+ SERVICE OF PRAYER +

Litany of the Resurrection

- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C **hear us.**
- P** Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Who foretold Your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"

- C** have mercy on us.
- P** Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,
- C** have mercy on us.
- P** Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
- C** have mercy on us.
- P** Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
- C** have mercy on us.
- P** 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.
- P** Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
- C** have mercy on us.
- P** Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
- C** have mercy on us.
- P** Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
- C** have mercy on us.
- P** 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.
- P** Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
- C** have mercy on us.
- P** By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
- C** good Lord, deliver us.
- P** By Your victory over sin and death,
- C** good Lord, deliver us.
- P** By the majesty of Your risen body,
- C** good Lord, deliver us.
- P** We poor sinners implore You
- C** to hear us, Lord Jesus.
- P** 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.
- P** 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.
- P** 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.
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** have mercy on us.

- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **grant us Your peace.**
- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
- P** 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: *“This is the Feast” (organ introduction)*

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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.**

The Holy Gospel

John 20:1-18

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Following the reading...

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

Sit

Sermon

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (SETTING ONE) +

Stand

Preface - Sanctus - Prayer of Thanksgiving

p160ff

Lord's Prayer - The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini - Agnus Dei

Distribution Hymn

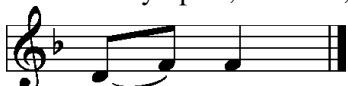
"Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

LSB 467

Post-Communion 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 **C** A - men.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.



C **C** A - men.

Recessional Hymn: *"The Day of Resurrection"*

LSB 478

Serving in the Divine Service This Evening:

Preacher:*Pastor Woelmer*
Liturgist:*Pastor Ulmer*
Readers:*Pastor Taylor*
Celebrant:*Pastor Kieser*
Paschal Candle:*Pastor Taylor*
Organist:*Laura Swor*
Acolyte:*Camden Norris*
Crucifer:*Nathan Kieser*

+ *Your Offering may be deposited in the plates in the narthex as you leave this evening.* +



Acknowledgments

Vigil of Easter from Lutheran Service Book

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