

# Easter Vigil

April 19, 2025

5:00pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – West Allis

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## Service of Light

(At the invitation of the pastor, rise and face the rear of the church)

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 sin and 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 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.**

P: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever; the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and the Omega! His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

**C: Amen!**

P: May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds. 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 darkness, but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Cantor: The Light of Christ

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Repeated as the candle reaches the middle and front of the church)*

Cantor: 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.

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.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places 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 all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, who is 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. 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.**

(Be seated)

**Hymn: "Beautiful Savior" (LSB #537)**

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!

**Service of Readings from Holy History**

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 Gen 1:1-2:3***

P: 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 Gen 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13***

L: 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.**

**Hymn: "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" (LSB #722)**

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way:  
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.  
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,  
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.  
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,  
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.  
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

***Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac Genesis 22:1-18***

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Let us pray.

O God, you promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of many peoples, and then you put him to the test, asking him to sacrifice his only son, whom he loved. We thank you for providing a substitute sacrifice, giving your only-begotten, beloved Son into the death of the cross. Grant your Church a hearty trust in all your saving works; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Hymn: "The Lamb" (LSB 547)

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

**Refrain** Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill  
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

***Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea Exodus 14:10-15:2***

L: 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.**

***Job Confesses the Redeemer Job 19:20-27***

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Let us pray.

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.**

Hymn: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" (LSB #461: 1-3, 5, 7-8)

I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives; I know that my Redeemer lives!

**Service of Holy Baptism**

Pastoral Introduction and Prayer

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. Amen.**

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.**

**Baptismal Hymn: "Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy" (LSB #590)**

Baptized into Your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly, Among Your saints, Your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin, Your Spirit now shall live within.

My loving Father, here You take me To be henceforth Your child and heir.  
My faithful Savior here You make me The fruit of all Your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me When threat'ning clouds around I see.

My faithful God, You fail me never; Your promise surely will endure.  
O cast me not away forever If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled; Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.

All that I am and love most dearly Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely; Help me Your faithful child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own Serve any will but Yours alone.

### **Proclamation of the Easter Gospel**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

### **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 us in the spirit of adoption which you have given us, that having been made alive in Christ in both 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** John 20:1-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

*After the reading:*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon Hymn: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (LSB #465)**

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds In praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:

"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still He comes to give us life And by His presence stills all strife.  
Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through Your triumph;  
Grant grace sufficient for life's day That by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Rise* Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father and our Lord, To Spirit blest, most holy God,  
All the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### Sermon

(Rise)

### Offertory

LSB p. 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.  
(Be seated)

**Offerings** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

### 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: have mercy on 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 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 worshipped 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 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 others 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: give us your peace.**

P: O Lord,

**C: have mercy.**

P: O Christ,

**C: have mercy.**

P: O Lord,

**C: have mercy. Amen.**

### Service of Holy Communion

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### Preface

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.**

### Proper Preface

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whose death, burial, and resurrection from the dead He now enables the faithful to walk in newness of life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

### Sanctus

LSB p. 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

### The Lord's Prayer

**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

#### Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

#### Agnus Dei

LSB p. 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

### Distribution Hymns

#### “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia” (LSB #463)

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!

Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!

Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!

At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!

Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!

Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!

Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!  
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!  
When contending death and life, Alleluia!  
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!  
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!  
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

**“With High Delight Let Us Unite” (LSB #483)**

With high delight Let us unite In songs of great jubilation.  
Ye pure in heart, All bear your part, Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.  
To set us free Forever, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's ends  
Good News to save ev'ry nation.

True God, He first From death has burst Forth into life, all subduing.  
His enemy Doth vanquished lie; His death has been death's undoing.  
“And yours shall be Like victory O'er death and grace,” Saith He, who gave  
His life for us, life renewing.

Let praises ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord adoration.  
His honor speed By word and deed To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.  
So shall His love Give us above, From misery And death set free,  
All joy and full consolation.

**Common Dismissal**

(Rise)

**Post-Communion Collects**

P: Let us pray: O God, for our redemption you gave your only-begotten Son into 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.

**C: Amen.**

P: O Lord God, heavenly Father, you gave your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification. By your Holy Spirit grant us newness of life that through the power of Christ's resurrection we may dwell with Him forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, filled with hope for eternity; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Benediction**

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, now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:**

**“The Day of Resurrection”**

**(LSB #478)**

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,  
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free,  
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light  
And, list'ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own “All hail!” and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin,  
Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein.  
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!

All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,  
All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!  
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne  
And honor, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lector  
Organist  
Cantor

Pastor Michael Schumacher  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Marc Stefanic  
JoLynn Bender  
Anna Carson