

Easter Vigil

April 4, 2026

As We Gather

The Easter Vigil is a service that leads us down through holy history. There have been many “saving acts” worked by our God who does wonders. All of these “saving acts” find their culmination and consummation in the Passion of the Christ and His glorious resurrection from the dead. The service begins in a subdued fashion but eventually leads us to the joy of Easter and the singing of Alleluias once again. The service culminates with the Lord’s Supper, the eternal covenant of Christ’s blood that opens the door to life and eternal salvation.

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.

Please gather in silence

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

P: The Light of Christ

C: Thanks be to God.

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

P: 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 cleanses 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.

Hymn #537

“Beautiful Savior”

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 forever-more 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

In 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.

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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.

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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.”²⁹ And 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.”³⁰ And 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.³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.² And 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.³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

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

Then 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.”² Take 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,³ and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth.⁴ For 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.”⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.¹¹ In 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.¹² And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.¹³ On 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,¹⁴ they 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.¹⁵ They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life.¹⁶ And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in.¹⁷ The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.¹⁸ The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters.⁶ At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made⁷ and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.⁸ Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground.⁹ But 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.¹⁰ He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark.¹¹ And 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.¹² Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.¹³ In 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.¹⁴ In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out.¹⁵ Then God said to Noah,¹⁶ “Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you.¹⁷ Bring 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.”¹⁸ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,⁹ “Behold, I establish covenant with you and your offspring after you,¹⁰ and 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.¹¹ I 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.”¹² And 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: ¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

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 #761 “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly: Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

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

¹⁰ When 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. ¹¹ They 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? ¹² Is 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.” ¹³ And 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. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

¹⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ Lift 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. ¹⁷ And 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. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” ¹⁹ Then 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, ²⁰ coming 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. ²¹ Then 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.

²² And 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. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ And 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, ²⁵ clogging 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.”

²⁶ Then 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.” ²⁷ So 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. ²⁸ The 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. ²⁹ But 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. ³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

³¹ Israel 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. 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. ² The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

P: 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 3:1-29

King 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.

² Then 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. ³ Then 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

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had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁴ And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ that 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. ⁶ And 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.

The Fiery Furnace

⁸ Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. ⁹ They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰ You, 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. ¹¹ And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. ¹² There 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.”

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king.

¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar 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? ¹⁵ Now 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?”

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If 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. ¹⁸ But 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.”

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¹⁹ Then 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. ²⁰ And 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. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²² Because 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. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴ Then 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." ²⁵ He 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."

²⁶ Then 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. ²⁷ And 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. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar 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. ²⁹ Therefore 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."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God you deliver those who are faithful to you. Thank you for the example of faith that you have given us through Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Help us to be as faithful when the world wants us

to turn away from you. Help us to remember that no matter what the world does to us, you will save us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn #664

"Fight the Good Fight"

Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove
Christ is your life and Christ your love.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

Service of Holy Baptism

Pastoral Introduction and Prayer

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 were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. "

Let us pray: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life everlasting through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Holy Baptism we are forgiven our sins and granted a new life in Christ, our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I ask you anew:

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 #594 "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!

He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.

Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!

I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.

Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!

Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.

Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
and, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

Death, you cannot end my gladness; I am baptized into Christ!

When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!

Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!

Open eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.

Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

(Rise)

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 20th 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 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon Hymn #461 "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" Stanzas 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!

Sermon "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" Job 19:25

Sermon Notes

- "I _____."

"What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me."

(Job 3:25)

- "My _____."

❖ **In the Old Testament a redeemer was a close _____,**

someone with _____ on!

❖ **Whatever goes _____ your redeemer makes _____.**

"And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God."

(Job 19:26)

- " _____!"

❖ **"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!'"

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: 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: have mercy on us.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy. Amen.

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 Institution

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

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #550 “Lamb of God”

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain

**O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

Distribution Hymns

Hymn #633 “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death’s dread angel sheathes the sword:
Israel’s hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas’chal victim, paschal bread; with
sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

Hymn #790 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

The Dismissal

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 #478 "The Day of Resurrection"

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

Pastor Harold Bender
Gary Knight
Deaconess Carole King

Easter Celebration

Sunday at 6:30am Sunrise Service

Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00am

Easter Breakfast: Join us for a joyful Easter Breakfast as we celebrate the risen Jesus! Together, we'll honor the hope and new life we have in Him with good food, fellowship, and celebration. Bring your family, invite a friend, and celebrate the greatest story ever told. **Easter Sunday – April 5 from 7:30 – 11:00am in the fellowship hall.**

