

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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“This is the Night!”

✠ **THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER** ✠
Holy Saturday

11 April 2020, 8:00 PM

✠ The Liturgy of Light ✠

(We remember how often God has used fire to reveal his presence: leading Israel out of slavery and in tongues of fire at Pentecost. A new fire is kindled.)

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed 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 receiving His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

(The new fire is lit)

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. We ask you to bless this new fire and all who keep this joyful Paschal feast, so 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 Paschal candle symbolizes the presence of the risen Christ among us throughout the Easter season.)

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.

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

(The Paschal candle is lit from the newly kindled fire.)

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

(The Assisting Minister raises the candle and chants...)

AM The Light of Christ!

C **Thanks be to God!**

(the candle is raised a second time.)

AM The Light of Christ!
C **Thanks be to God!**

(The Paschal candle is taken before the altar and is raised a third time.)

AM The Light of Christ!
C **Thanks be to God!**

(The Paschal candle is placed in its stand. All light their candles from the Paschal candle)

✠ The Exsultet/Paschal Proclamation ✠

AM Rejoice now all heavenly choirs of angels, and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and, for the victory of so great a King, sound the trumpet of salvation. Exult also O earth, enlightened with such radiance; and, made brilliant by the splendor of the eternal king, know that the ancient darkness has been banished from all the world. Be glad, also, O mother Church, clothed with the brightness of such a light, and let this house resound with the triumphant voices of the peoples. Wherefore, dearly beloved, who stand in the clarity of this bright and holy light, join with me I ask you, in praising the loving kindness of almighty God; through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen!** *(sung)*

AM The Lord be with| you.

C **And also with| you.** *(sung, echoing cantor)*

AM Let us give thanks to the Lord our| God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and| praise.** *(sung, echoing cantor)*

AM It is indeed right and salutary that we should with full devotion of heart and mind and voice praise the invisible God, the Father Almighty, and his only Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ; who paid for us the debt of Adam to the eternal Father, and who by his precious blood redeemed us from the bondage to the ancient sin.

For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain, by whose blood the door-posts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the night in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, from the land of Egypt; and led them dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This, indeed, is the night in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.

This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace and are restored to holiness.

This is the night in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph!

For it would have profited us nothing to be born, had we not also been redeemed.

Oh, how wonderful the condescension of your loving kindness!

Oh, how inestimable the goodness of your love, that to redeem a slave you delivered up your Son.

O necessary sin of Adam that is wiped away by the death of Christ!

O happy fault that was worthy to have so great a Redeemer!

O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and the hour wherein Christ arose again from hell!

This is the night of which it is written: “and the night is as clear as the day;” and, “Then shall my night be turned into day.”

The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness; washes away sins; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those

who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride.

Therefore, in this night of grace, receive O holy Father, this evening sacrifice of praise; which the church lays before you in the solemn offering of the candle. We sing the glories of this pillar of fire...

(We pause as the acolyte lights the altar and pew candles with fire from the Paschal candle.)

The brightness of which is not diminished even when its light is divided and borrowed.

For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants, have made for the substance of this candle.

O night truly blessed in which heaven and earth are joined –things human and things divine.

We therefore pray to you, O Lord, that this candle, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of this night and be mingled with the lights of heaven.

May He who is the morning star find it burning—that morning star which never sets, that morning star which, rising again from the grave, faithfully sheds light on all the human race.

And we pray, O Lord, rule, govern, and preserve with your continual protection your whole Church, giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing; through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. *(sung)*

Sit

(Candles are extinguished at this time.)

✠ **LITURGY OF READINGS** ✠

First Lesson: *Creation*

Genesis 1: 1 – 2:4a

(Creation is now renewed in Christ. At the first creation, the Spirit of God moved over the waters bringing order from chaos, and creation began with the coming of light into the darkness. In the cross and resurrection of Christ the new creation begins, and it continues in each Baptism.)

P A reading from Genesis, the 1st and 2nd chapters:

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

(Silence for Meditation)

Stand for prayer

P Let us pray: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of humanity and yet more wonderfully restored it through the cross and resurrection of your Son. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Him who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

C Amen

Sit

Second Lesson: *The Flood*

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

(In the waters of the flood, God destroys all life, but at the same time mercifully preserves life in the ark, which saves Noah, his family and the animal species. In the waters of Holy Baptism, we die to sin and are raised to new life by being joined to the death and resurrection of Christ.)

P A reading from Genesis, the 7th through 9th chapters:

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

(Silence for Meditation)

Stand for prayer

P Let us pray: Almighty God, in the waters of the flood you mercifully spared Noah and all living creatures. Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Sit

Third Lesson: *Abraham and Isaac*

Genesis 22: 1-18

(Abraham's offers his only son, Isaac, upon an altar. This sacrifice foreshadows the sacrificial offering of God's Son, Jesus Christ upon the cross and so suggests how all the nations of the earth are blessed by the death of Christ.)

P A reading from Genesis, the 22nd chapter:

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

(Silence for Meditation)

Stand for prayer

P Let us pray: Almighty God, you promised your servant Abraham that he would become the father of all nations, and through the Paschal mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, you increase your chosen people throughout the world. Grant us faith to respond to your call by joyfully accepting the new life of grace through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Sit

Fourth Lesson: *Israel's Deliverance*

Exodus 14:10-31, 15:1

*(All Israel is delivered from Pharaoh through the waters of the Red Sea. This deliverance foreshadows our own deliverance from the bondage of sin through the waters of Holy Baptism. This lesson concludes with the canticle **Cantemus Domino** that tells of the destruction of Israel's enemies, and foreshadows Christ's triumph over our enemies of sin, death, and the devil.)*

P A reading from Exodus, the 14th and 15th chapters:

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Canticle

Cantemus Domino/I Will Sing To The Lord (cantor and congregation)

I will sing to the LORD, for he has | triumphed gloriously;*
horse and rider he has thrown in- | to the sea.

²The LORD is my strength | and my might,*
and he has become | my salvation;

**this is my God, and | I will praise him,*
my father's God, and I | will exalt him.**

**³The LORD | is a warrior;*
the LORD | is his name.**

⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast in- | to the sea;*
his picked officers were sunk in | the Red Sea.

⁵The floods | covered them;*

they went down into the depths | like a stone.

**⁶Your right hand, O LORD, glo- | rious in power--*
your right hand, O LORD, shat- | tered the enemy.**

**⁷In the greatness of your majesty you
overthrew your | adversaries;***

you sent out your fury, it consumed | them like stubble.

⁸At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood up | in a heap;*
the deeps congealed in the heart | of the sea.

⁹The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its | fill of them.*

I will draw my sword, my hand | shall destroy them.'

**¹⁰You blew with your wind, the sea | covered them;*
they sank like lead in the | mighty waters.**

¹¹Who is like you, O LORD, a- | mong the gods?*
**Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, | doing wonders?**

¹²You stretched out | your right hand,*
the earth | swallowed them.

¹³In your steadfast love you led the people whom | you redeemed;*
you guided them by your strength to your ho- | ly abode.

**7You brought them in and planted them
on the mountain of your | own possession,*
the place, O LORD, that you made | your abode,
the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands | have established.*
18The LORD will reign forev- | er and ever.**

I will sing to the LORD, for he has | triumphed gloriously,*
horse and rider he has thrown in- | to the sea.

**▲ Glory to the Father and | to the Son
And to the | Holy Spirit
As it was in | the beginning
Is now and will be forever | Amen**

(Silence for Meditation)

Stand for prayer

P Let us pray: O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism. Grant that all peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham and may rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Sit

Fifth Lesson: Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

(This reading tells of Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones, which God's Spirit re-clothes with flesh and restores to life again. The restoration of life to dry bones foreshadows the life-restoring resurrection of Christ to all people.)

P A reading from Ezekiel, the 37th chapter:

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

(Silence for Meditation)

Stand for prayer

P Let us pray: O God, by your Son's resurrection, you have breathed Your life-giving Spirit upon our flesh, bringing us out of sin into righteousness, and out of death into life. Grant us such an understanding of your mercy that, in receiving your gifts of Word and Sacrament now, we may fully live through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Sit

Sixth Lesson: *Job Confesses the Redeemer*

Job 19:20-27

(In the midst of his suffering and lament, Job recognizes God as his redeemer, and speaks of seeing Him alive upon earth after his own –Job’s– death. Job’s words foreshadow both the cross and resurrection of Christ, and the bodily resurrection of all those who repent and have faith in Him.)

P A reading from Job, the 19th chapter:

P The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn, LSB # 461 *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* (verses 1-3, 5, 8 only)

- 1 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.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.
- 3 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.
- 5 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.
- 8 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!

(Silence for Meditation)

Stand for prayer

P Let us pray: Almighty God, in the sacrifice of your Son you put to death our mortal flesh and in His rising restored our life. Grant that we may always cling to Christ by faith in this life, so that at the last day, we may rejoice to stand in our own flesh and see you face to face, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Sit

Seventh Lesson: *Jonah Preaches to Nineveh*

Jonah 3:1-10

(After his expulsion from the belly of the great fish, the prophet Jonah calls the people of Nineveh to repent and believe God. Likewise, Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection calls us to lifelong repentance and faith, and spares us from death.)

P A reading from Jonah, the 3rd chapter:

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

(Silence for Meditation)

Stand for prayer

P Let us pray: O God, as Jonah was three days in the belly of the great fish, so your Son remained three days in the heart of the earth. Grant to us true repentance to so embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism that we might proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Sit

Eighth Lesson: *The Fiery Furnace*

Daniel 3:1-30

(This reading tells of the three young men who were thrown into the fiery furnace and yet remained unharmed. Their deliverance from certain death foreshadows the resurrection of Christ)

P A reading from Daniel, the 3rd chapter:

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Canticle

Benedicite, omnia opera/All You Works of God, Bless the Lord!

“Song of the Three Young Men” from the Apocrypha

(ALL sing)

All you works of God, bless the Lord!
All you angels, now bless the Lord;
Come you heavens and pow'rs that be,
Praise the Lord and His majesty:

REFRAIN:

**Raise your voices high, praise and magnify,
All you works of God, Bless the Lord!
Raise you voices high, praise and magnify,
All you works of God, Bless the Lord!**

Sing, you sun and you moon above,
Stars of heaven, now sing His love;
Dew and showers, you winds that blow
Heat and fire, you ice and snow:

Refrain

Frost of winter with song so cold'
Dews of summer, your song unfold;
Light and darkness, you day and night,
Clouds of thunder, you lightning bright:

Refrain

Hills and mountains, now sing His worth,
All you green things that grow on earth;
Seas and rivers, you springs and wells,
Beast and cattle, you birds and whales:

Refrain

Come humanity sing along,
Sing, you people of God, a song;
Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,

Join, you spirits and souls at rest.

Refrain

Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;
All you humble, His praises start;
God the Father and Son adore,
Bless the Spirit forevermore

(The pastor goes to the font.)

Refrain (sing twice)

Stand

P Let us pray: O God, you mercifully and wondrously preserved your servants, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in the time of our testing, that we might confess your name, reject all false gods, and know that we are safe through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

✠ Remembrance of Holy Baptism ✠

While a baptismal hymn is sung, the pastor stands at the font.

Hymn # 603 *We Know That Christ Is Raised*



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in His sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.



Em-braced by death, He broke its fear - ful hold;
Re - born, we share with Him an Eas - ter life
The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the Church of God.



And our de - spair He turned to blaz - ing joy.
As liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.



Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!

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The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

P In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Stand

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things. By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that we, remembering our own Baptism into Christ, might live in your gracious promise of forgiveness unto new life as heirs of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen**

The minister addresses the congregation.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P Do you renounce the devil?

R Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father?

C Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God?

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 God the Holy Spirit?

C Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life T everlasting. Amen .

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

The minister sprinkles the congregation with water from the Font.

P You have been Baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son T and of the Holy Spirit! Receive this water in remembrance of your Baptism into Christ!

C Amen

P Let us pray:
Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism you have raised us from death to life by water and Your Word. Grant that we might live as your children and as heirs of Your eternal and uncreated life through you only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

✠ GOSPEL PROCESSION/RESURRECTION GOSPEL ✠

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Let earth and heaven proclaim with exultant joy!

C Christ is risen; He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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



☩ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

John 20: 1-18

20:1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer

P Christ is risen!

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

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you!**

P Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, preserve in all your people the spirit of adoption which you have given 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.**

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn and Gospel Procession

LSB #463 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!*

- 1. 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!**
- 2. For the sheep the Lamb has bleed, 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!**
- 3. Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!**
- 4. 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!**
- 5. 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!**

Dismissal

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Let us keep the Feast! Go in peace to serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

The Great Vigil of Easter concludes but our joy continues in the Paschal Feast.

Those serving tonight:

Priests
Preacher
Organist

all disciples of Good Shepherd
Pr. Steve Saxe
Jim Derrick