

The Vigil of Easter

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
9141 County Road 101
Corcoran, MN 55340

Rev. Matthew V. Moss

Rev. Matthew P. Johnson

April 8, 2023

Service of Light

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

P Let us pray.

O God, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The pastor traces the cross on the candle while saying:

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

and then traces the Greek letters Alpha and Omega on the candle while saying:

the Alpha and the Omega.

He traces the year on the candle, saying:

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

He puts the five wax nails into the candle, saying:

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

Then, lighting the candle from the newly kindled fire, he says:

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

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.



A The light of Christ.



G Thanks be to God.



A The light of Christ.



G Thanks be to God.



A The light of Christ.



G Thanks be to God.

The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

A Rejoice now, all you heav'nly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

Preface Dialogue



P The Lord be with you.



G And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



G 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.

Easter Proclamation

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood. This is the night when You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise. Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Service of Readings

P In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His Word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Creation

A A reading from Genesis, chapters one and two.

[after the reading]

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The Flood

A A reading from Genesis, chapters seven, eight, and nine.

[after the reading]

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and perverse generation, and yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ's body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

A A reading from Exodus, chapters 14 and 15.

[after the reading]

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

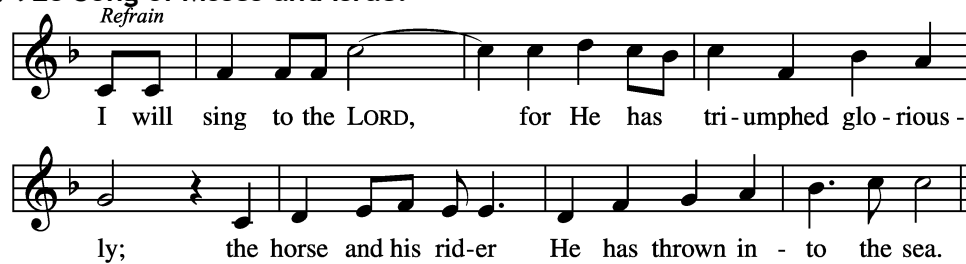
P Let us pray.

O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Hymn: 925 Song of Moses and Israel

Refrain



I will sing to the LORD, for He has tri-umphed glo-rious -
ly; the horse and his rid-er He has thrown in - to the sea.

¹The LORD is my strength | and my song,*
and He has become my sal- | vation;

²this is my God, and I will | praise Him,*
my father's God, and I will ex- | alt Him.

Refrain

³The LORD is a | man of war;*
the LORD | is His name.

⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his host He cast in- | to the sea,*
and his chosen 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, glorious | in power,*
Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the | enemy.

Refrain

⁷Who is like You, O LORD, a- | mong the gods?*

Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing | wonders?

⁸You stretched out Your | right hand,*
the earth | swallowed them.

⁹You have led in Your steadfast love the people whom You | have redeemed,*
You have guided them by Your strength to Your ho- | ly abode.

¹⁰You will bring them in and plant them on Your own | mountain,*
the place, O LORD, which You have made for | Your abode,

¹¹the sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have es- | tablished.*
The LORD will reign forever and | ever.

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

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

Refrain

Text: © 2001 Crossway Bibles. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003065
Tune: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003065

Salvation Offered Freely to All

A A reading from Isaiah, chapter 55.

[after the reading]

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your Word You created and sustain all things, and by Your Spirit You renew Your creation. Grant now the water of life to all who thirst for You that they may bring forth abundant fruit in Your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

A New Heart and a New Spirit

A A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 36.

[after the reading]

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son You cleansed our hearts and put a new Spirit within us. Grant that all who are brought to newness of life in the fellowship of the body of Christ may show forth in their lives what they confess with their lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The Valley of Dry Bones

A A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 37.

[after the reading]

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Let us pray.

O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam's children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Job Confesses the Redeemer

A A reading from Job, chapter 19.

[after the reading]

A 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.

Jonah Preaches to Nineveh

A A reading from Jonah, chapter three.

[after the reading]

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

O God, as the prophet Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so Your Son Jesus spent three days in the heart of the earth. Grant us repentance to embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism and to proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The Gathering of God's People

A A reading from Zephaniah, chapter three.

[after the reading]

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

Look in mercy, O Lord, upon Your faithful people, and by Word and Spirit bring to completion that good work which You have begun in us. Gather in Your people that all the world may see and know that what has been cast down is raised up and what has grown old is made new, until the work You have begun in us is brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

The Fiery Furnace

A A reading from Daniel, chapter three.

[after the reading]

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P Let us pray.

O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Hymn: 931 All You Works of the Lord



¹All you works of the Lord, | bless the Lord—*
praise Him and magnify Him for- | ever.*

You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

²You heavens, | bless the Lord;*
all you waters above the heavens, | bless the Lord;*
all you powers of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

³You sun and moon, | bless the Lord;*
you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord;*
all you showers and dew, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁴All you winds of God, | bless the Lord;*
you fire and heat, | bless the Lord;*
you winter and summer, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁵You dews and frost, | bless the Lord;*
you frost and cold, | bless the Lord;*
you ice and snow, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁶You nights and days, | bless the Lord;*
you light and darkness, | bless the Lord;*
you lightnings and clouds, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁷Let the earth | bless the Lord;*
you mountains and hills, | bless the Lord;*
all you green things that grow on the earth, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁸You wells and springs, | bless the Lord;*
you rivers and seas, | bless the Lord;*
you whales and all who move in the waters, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

⁹All you birds of the air, | bless the Lord;*
all you beasts and cattle, | bless the Lord;*
all you children of men, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

¹⁰O Israel, | bless the Lord;*
you priests of the Lord, | bless the Lord;*
you servants of the Lord, | bless the Lord: **Refrain**

¹¹You spirits and souls of the righteous, | bless the Lord;*
you pure and humble of heart, | bless the Lord;*
let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy | Spirit: **Refrain**

Text: Public domain
Tune: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003065

Service of Holy Baptism

P On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead. The apostle Paul says:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For

the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Do you renounce the devil?

C Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?

C Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways?

C Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

C Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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

Addressing the entire congregation, the pastor says:

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

C Amen.

P Peace ✠ be with you.

C Amen.

Service of Prayer

Litany of the Resurrection

A O Lord,

C have mercy.

A O Christ,

C have mercy.

A O Lord,

C have mercy.

A Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C **hear us.**
A Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who foretold Your passion saying, “The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,”
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
C **have mercy on us.**
A By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
A By Your victory over sin and death,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
A By the majesty of Your risen body,
C **good Lord, deliver us.**
A We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, Lord Jesus.**
A That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
A That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
A That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,
C **grant us, good Lord.**
A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
A Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **grant us Your peace.**
A O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
A O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
A O Lord,
C **have mercy. Amen.**

Service of the Word

Easter Acclamation

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The altar candles may now be lighted from the paschal candle. Lights in the church are turned on, bells may be rung, the chancel may be decorated, and the altar may be prepared for the Sacrament while the congregation sings the Hymn of Praise.

And Sleeps My Lord in Silence Yet (David Music)

sung by soloist

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

- P** Let us pray.
O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

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

¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

Sermon: "After the Fact We Look Back to What Came Before" (Exodus 14-15)

Following the Sermon the Live Stream ends and you are invited to continue the vigil in prayer and anticipation for the Easter Sunrise service, beginning at 6 A.M.

Preacher: Pr. Matthew Johnson
Liturgist: Pr. Matthew Moss
Kantor: Dr. Katie Moss
Soloist: Mr. Bjorn Briel
Usher: Jerry Rogge

Acknowledgments
Vigil of Easter from Lutheran Service Book
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

EASTER SUNDAY (April 9): Sunrise Divine Service 6:00 am
(7:00 am-10:00 am — Easter Breakfast Served)
Divine Services 8:00 & 10:30 am