



EASTER VIGIL

April 3, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Since its beginnings, the Church has gathered on this night, considered one of the holiest of the year, to celebrate and proclaim Christ's resurrection in word, sign and song. As we gather around a pillar of fire (the Paschal candle), we hear stories of faith and promise, remembering that, in baptism, we too are a part of this journey from death to life.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

After worship leaders have entered the sanctuary, the Paschal candle is lit from a new flame. The presence of Christ among us is proclaimed three times:

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

THE EXSULTET

The Exsultet (the name of this ancient prayer comes from the first words of the Latin text meaning "Rejoice") is one of the historical treasures that have served Christians not only in the past but also into the future. As the Exsultet is sung, light is spread throughout the sanctuary. You are invited to help spread the light of Christ (lighting candles, etc.) wherever you are worshiping this evening.

VIGIL READINGS

Reading - "Creation" Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Prayer

Reading - "The Deliverance at the Red Sea" Exodus 14:10-31
Prayer

Reading - "Salvation freely offered to all" Isaiah 55:1-11
Prayer

Reading - "Valley of the dry bones" Ezekiel 37:1-14
Prayer

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to affirm our baptism into Christ.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce evil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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 everlasting.**

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people,
following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

If so, answer I do and ask God to help me.

I do and ask God to help me.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,

that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth,
cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in us the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
both now and forever.

Amen.

GOSPEL

And now, hear the holy Gospel according to Luke.

On the first day of the week at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to the: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise."

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN

(See end of bulletin)

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today" was recorded virtually by the Central Lutheran Church Choir. Members recorded their voices from their individual homes, which were then mixed together with organ accompaniment. In this way, the choir sings together even while being physically apart.

BENEDICTION

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

POSTLUDE

“Christ is Arisen” BWV 627

Setting by Johann Sebastian Bach

SERVING THIS EVENING

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe, Pastor Melissa Pohlman, Pastor Stephanie Friesen,
Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio, Pat Hansen,

READERS Karl Starr; Bobbie Spradley; Ann Oyen; Lois Wolff;
Tyra Thomas; Earl Wembley; Paul Ssenengo; Duane and Darlene Hetland;
Liz, Thomas, Elsa and Audrey Paleen

ORGANIST Isaac Drewes

VIDEO/SOUND Mark Kieffer

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Prayer of the Day – <http://www.narrativelectionary.org>

Genesis prayer - prayer of the Mbuti people of the Democratic Republic of Congo

Ezekiel prayer - From A Book of Prayers. Copyright 1982, ICEL

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!