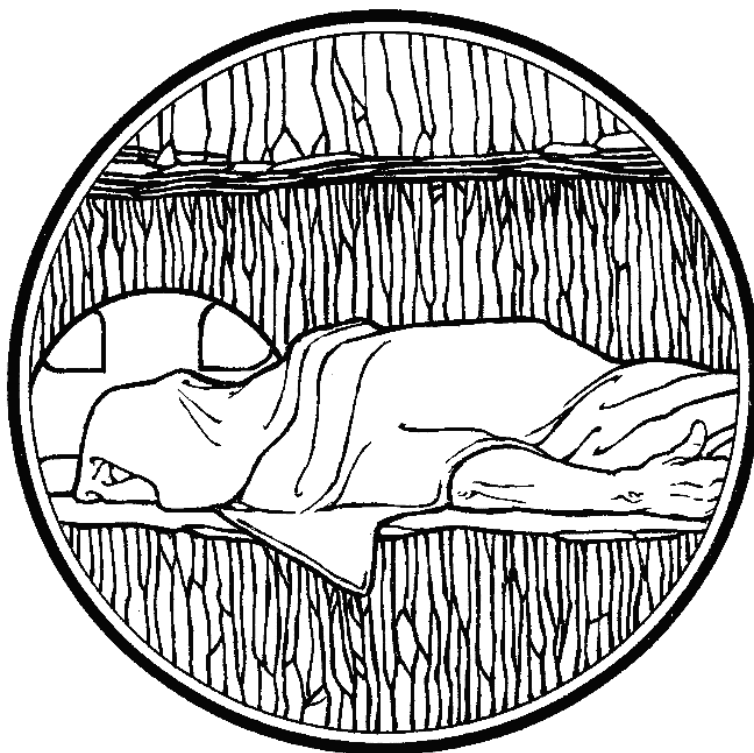


Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Vigil of Easter



“My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.”

-Psalm 130

*Oh, help us, Christ, God's Son,
through your bitter suffering,
so that always obedient to you
we may shun all wrongdoing,
and thinking of your death and its cause
we may profit from our reflections
and in this way, however poor and inadequate it may be,
give you an offering of thanks,
Amen.*



-Bach's St. John's Passion

The Easter Vigil service is the culmination of the Triduum (Latin for “the three days”), an ancient and holy service. The Easter Vigil ushers in the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord acting as a bridge between Holy Week and Easter morning.

Throughout the early centuries of the Church’s life, the people of God would hold vigil through the night in expectation of Christ’s return. A vigil in expectation of Christ’s return at Easter became a common feature of the celebration of His crucifixion and resurrection. It consisted, as our does, of prayer, psalms and hymns, and readings especially from the Old Testament, culminating in the celebration of the resurrection at dawn with the Lord’s Supper.

In the ancient church, the Vigil was the time that baptisms took place. That way, on Easter morning, the newly born in Christ (and catechized) could participate in the Lord’s Supper at Easter. We still observe Confirmation at this service for this reason. In addition to welcoming new members, we will remember our own baptism and confirmation tonight.

The service begins in the back of the sanctuary in darkness, which is how we left yesterday. As the service goes on with scripture readings, we remember Christ’s resurrection, and His glorious light fills the sanctuary symbolized by turning on all of the lights and loud alleluias in hymnody.

Our service concludes the Triduum, so there is a Benediction at the end. It is followed by the Easter Greeting and an alleluia (which has not been spoken since Lent began), “Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia, Amen.”

Communion Statement - *In our congregation we follow the historic Lutheran practice of closed communion. This is nothing new, nor a novel innovation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Rather, for many centuries, this was the universal practice of all of Christendom, and to this day, is still practiced by the majority of the Christian Church.*

- *We observe closed communion because the Lord’s Supper is a public profession of our unity of faith. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)*
- *We believe Christ’s body and blood are truly present in the bread and the wine for forgiveness of our sins. (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)*
- *We observe closed communion to protect people in body and soul from taking the Lord’s Supper to their judgment and harm. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)*

Our practice is prompted by our love, care, and concern for all people. If you are not a communicant member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please do not commune today.

However, please know that we look forward to having you at the Lord’s Table soon. We sincerely invite you to visit with our pastors about the joys of Holy Communion. They will offer you instruction about our Lutheran faith and this sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, so you will be ready to stand with us and partake of this wonderful meal.

In the semidarkness, a candle is lit. We remember the symbolism of the paschal candle, as Christ the Light of the World who is present with us.

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

Blessing of the Paschal Candle

P Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,
(The cross is traced on the paschal candle)

P the Alpha and the Omega. *(The Greek letters Alpha and Omega are traced on the paschal candle)*

P His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever. *(The year is traced on the paschal candle)*

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

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

The Paschal Candle is lit, and all light their candles from its flame. Please tip the unlit candle to light your candle. Elders will assist with the flame. The confirmands and clergy process into the church together.

At the entrance of the sanctuary, the bearer of the main candle stops as we sing:

A The light of Christ



C Thanks be to God.

In the middle of the sanctuary, we stop again and sing:

A The light of Christ



C Thanks be to God.

After the Candle Bearer reaches the stand, he turns and faces the congregation, and as everyone has reached their pew, we sing:

A The light of Christ



C Thanks be to God.

The Exsultet - Easter Proclamation - sung

A 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.

We sing the following according to Divine Service Setting 1, p. 151

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so 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, 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 the 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 the 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.

Service of Readings

All may extinguish their candles at this time. The paschal candle remains lighted throughout the service. The service of readings gives the history of humanity through various scripture readings from the creation to the fall to redemption. In all of these readings, we see God's saving work through Jesus.

You may be seated.

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

Genesis 1:1-2:3

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

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

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

Exodus 14:10-15:1

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

Salvation Offered Freely to All

Isaiah 55:1-11

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

Ezekiel 36:24-28

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P 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 Gathering of God's People

Zephaniah 3:12-20

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

Daniel 3:1-30

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

Song of the Three Young Men – Chanted by Pastor Adam Moline

LSB 931

- Congregation joins in singing the refrain

This hymn remembers Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego as they were joined by Jesus in the fiery furnace in Babylon. It's for that reason that it has three phrases in between each refrain. It is a hymn that sings the praises of the God who has accomplished all the work of the salvation in all the scripture lessons just read.

Service of Holy Baptism

The Service of Holy Baptism is always used at the Vigil as a remembrance of Baptism. In the ancient church, all baptisms would occur on this day following education in the faith during the season of Lent. Because in the catechism we are told to “daily drown all our sins” in the water of baptism, on this holy day, we remember our own baptisms by going through the Rite of Holy Baptism.

Remembrance of 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 in 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.” *Romans 6:3-11*

Luther’s Flood Prayer

The following prayer was written by Martin Luther and is used in all baptisms to remind us how the flood foreshadowed the gifts that God gives in the waters of Holy Baptism.

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 him.

P Do you renounce all his ways?

C Yes, I renounce him.

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.

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

The Litany is an ancient prayer, especially designed for celebrating the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 upon us.

A Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,

C have mercy upon us.

A Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,

C have mercy upon us.

A Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshipped by her,

C have mercy upon 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 upon us.

A Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,

C have mercy upon us.

A Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,

C have mercy upon us.

A Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,

C have mercy upon 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 upon us.

A Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

C have mercy upon 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

The Vigil continues with the Service of the Word. This is when the resurrection is finally celebrated fully with the Easter acclamation and the singing of the Hymn of Praise for the first time since Lent began. This is a time to be joyful! Christ has been raised from the dead, and so too will you be!

Easter Acclamation

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

Hymn of Praise

“This is the Feast” LSB 155

This hymn is based upon Revelation chapters 5 and 19 and gives us a picture of the eternal feast of the Lamb Jesus in His Kingdom. During the singing of this hymn, the church moves from Lent to Easter. Purple is replaced with the white and gold of Easter. The muted service becomes vibrant with the full organ, reflecting the joy of heaven at the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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 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.

Holy Gospel (Please stand)

John 20:1-18

Sermon

Pastor Clint K. Poppe

Service of the Sacrament

LSB 160

We now partake in the very Body and Blood that suffered on the cross, was laid in a tomb, and is resurrected on Easter morning to all eternity, knowing that we one day will follow along the same path.

Distribution Hymns

Come, You Faithful Raise the Strain

LSB 487

Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to 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, 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 Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look upon you with favor, ✠ and give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn – This Joyful Eastertide

LSB 482

The Congregation at this time may greet one another with the Easter greeting, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter Broadcast Worship Schedule

Feast of the Resurrection with Communion - Tomorrow at 6:00, 8:00 and 10:30 am

