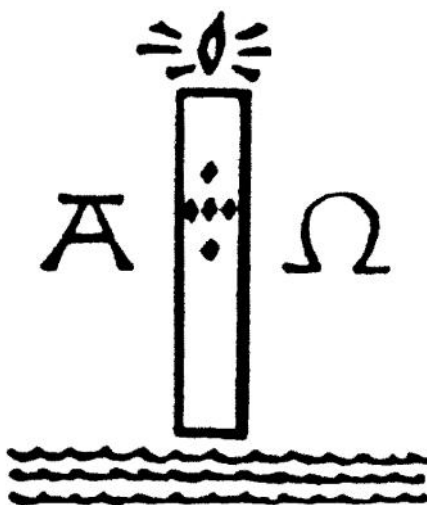


The Vigil of Easter

Saturday Evening, March 30, 2013

"They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. . . On the third day HE WILL RISE AGAIN."

(Luke 18:32-33)



*"It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the Beginning and the End.*

*To him who is thirsty
I will give to drink without cost
from the spring of the water of life."*

(Revelation 21:6)

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

- 1) Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my sov'reign die?
Would he devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?
- 2) Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!
- 3) Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut its glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died
For his own creatures' sin.
- 4) Thus might I hide my blushing face
While his dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt my eyes to tears.
- 5) But tears of grief cannot repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
It's all that I can do.

Were You There

- 1) Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
- 2) Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3) Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
- 4) Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

Nearer My God To Thee

- 1) Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be;
Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer to thee!
- 2) Nearer, my Lord to thee,
Nearer to thee,
Who to thy cross didst come,
Dying for me!
Strengthen my willing feet,
Hold me in service sweet
Nearer, O Christ, to thee,
Nearer to thee!
- 3) Nearer, O Comforter,
Nearer to thee,
Who with my loving Lord
Dwellest with me!
Grant me thy fellowship!
Help me each day to keep
Nearer, my Guide to thee,
Nearer to thee!
- 4) But to be nearer still,
Bring me, O God,
Not by the visioned steep
Angels have trod.
Here where thy cross I see,
Jesus, I wait for thee,
Then evermore to be
Nearer to thee!

Jesus I Will Ponder Now

- 1) Jesus, I will ponder now
On your holy Passion;
With your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of your suff'ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish.
- 2) Grant that I your Passion view
With repentant grieving,
Let me not bring shame to you
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?
- 3) If my sins give me alarm
And my conscience grieve me,
Let your cross my fear disarm,
Peace and pardon give me.
Grant that I may trust in you
And your holy Passion;
If his Son forgives anew,
God must have compassion.
- 4) Jesus, Lord, my heart renew,
Let me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from you,
Peace despite my losses.
May I give you love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing your praise forever.

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

- 1) Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2) Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3) Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 4) Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 5) Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6) Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Glory Be to Jesus

- 1) Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood
From his sacred veins.
- 2) Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion,
Infinitely kind.
- 3) Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment
Did the world redeem.
- 4) Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.
- 5) Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.
- 6) Lift we then our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood.

There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood

- 1) There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains
- 2) The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away.
- 3) Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved to sin no more.
- 4) E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme
And shall be till I die.
- 5) When this poor lisping stammering tongue
Lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler sweeter song
I'll sing Thy power to save.

Beautiful Savior

- 1) 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.
- 2) Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
- 3) Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moon light,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter
Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4) Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Blessed Savior Lutheran Church
2615 Shackelford Road
Florissant, Missouri 63031
831-1300

VIGIL OF EASTER

CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND OUR BAPTISM

6:00 P.M. Easter Eve., March 30, 2013

The Vigil of Easter is one of the oldest known Christian Worship Services. Traditionally this service is held on the night before Easter. It was a watch through the night for the signs of the rising sun and the coming of dawn.

There was a bonfire to show the need for light in our lives and to serve as a call to worship. It is to serve as a gathering place of the faithful as they await the coming of the resurrection of their Lord.

The Christ candle represents the presence of Christ with His people, bearing His sign and title. Five nails represent the five wounds that Christ endured on the cross. The year 2013 traced on the candle represents the number of years "not yet." That is the number of years that the people of God have continued still waiting and hoping for the Second Coming and the final triumph of God's Light over darkness.

Candles are given to each worshipper to symbolize the Light of Jesus Christ coming to each of us in the darkness of our sin. They show forth the way His Light is spread among His people and a reminder of Christ's resurrection and the Light of the world in our daily lives.

+ THE SERVICE OF LIGHT +

(The congregation gathers in some convenient place outside the nave of the church. All are given candles, later to be lighted from the paschal candle.)

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 in 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.

C 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. Amen.

(The assisting minister, holding the paschal candle, steps forward. The pastor traces the cross and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega upon it.)

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

(The Pastor traces the year upon the candle.)

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

(The Pastor puts the five wax nails into the candle.)

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

C Amen.

(The Christ candle is lit from the kindled fire.)

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

C Amen.

P Let us pray.

C 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. Amen

(Each worshiper lights their candle from the paschal candle. Then following the paschal candle and the pastor, the congregation enters the darkened church.)

P The light of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

P The light of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

□ Let us pray.

☪ **Almighty God, You most wonderfully created human nature and yet more wonderfully redeemed it. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him Who came to share our humanity, Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Reading 2

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

The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made." And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him. ... In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month--on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of

life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in. For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ...

After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him. By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you--the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground--so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number upon it." So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you--the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you--every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

Hymn

"Lord Jesus Think On Me"

#610 vs. 1 & 4

□ Let us pray.

☩ **O Lord, Whose wrath burned for the evil of men, You kill and bring again to life according to Your own purpose; You brought the flood on a wicked and perverse generation yet saved faithful Noah and his family. Open Your eyes to behold in mercy Your Church that in it Your work of mercy may come to its fullness and that the ends of the earth may know Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Reading 3

Abraham's Sacrifice of Isaac - Genesis 22:1-18

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to

the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Hymn

"Not All The Blood Of Beasts"

#431 vs. 1 & 2

□ *Let us pray to the Lord.*

☩ O God, You promised to faithful Abraham that he would be the father of many peoples, and in the Easter Sacrament of Holy Baptism You raised up for Yourself one people. Grant to Your Church a hearty trust in all Your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading 4

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea - Exodus 14:10-15:1

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt,

'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen." Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen--the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.

Hymn **"Come, You Faithful, Raise The Strain"**

#487 vs. 1

□ *Let us pray.*

***س* O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under**

Pharaoh and led them in safety through the Red Sea, thereby giving us a picture of our Baptism. Grant that we may ever be faithful to Your baptismal promise, live in its grace, and show forth to all people Your desire that all should be made the children of Abraham; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Reading 5

Salvation Offered Freely to All - Isaiah 55:1-11

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples.

Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor." Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Hymn

"The Gospel Shows The Father's Grace"

#580 vs. 1 & 4

□ *Let us pray*

☩ Almighty God, by the power of Your Word all things were created and are sustained; You send forth Your Spirit to 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. Amen.

Reading 6

Faith Strained But Victorious - Job 19:20-27

I am nothing but skin and bones; I have escaped with only the skin of my teeth. "Have pity on me, my friends, have pity, for the hand of God has struck me. Why do you pursue me as God does? Will you never get enough of my flesh?" "Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh

I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes--I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Hymn

“Be Still, My Soul”

752 vs. 1 & 2

□ *Let us pray.*

☩ Almighty God, Who in the Passover of Your Son brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death to life, grant to all whom You have sealed by the Holy Spirit with the sign of Christ's sacrifice both the will and the strength to speak Your Word in all the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Reading 7

A New Heart and A New Spirit - Ezekiel 36:24-28

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

Hymn

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

#704 vs. 3

□ *Let us pray.*

☩ Almighty and everlasting God, in the miracle of Easter You raised Your Son for our justification. Grant that all who are brought to new birth and 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. Amen.

Reading 8

The Gathering of God's People - Zephaniah 3:12-20

But I will leave within you the meek and humble, who trust in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel will do no wrong; they will speak no lies, nor will deceit be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid." Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

□ *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 them. Let all the world see and know that what has been cast down is raised up, what has grown old is made new, and that the work You have begun in us is being brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

+ **THE SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM** +

(The assisting minister carries the paschal candle to the baptismal font for this portion of the service.)

□ *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, counting yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." (Romans 6:3-11)

(The candles of the people are lit again from the paschal candle for the baptismal renewal portion of the service.)

□ *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 each now: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?*

☩ **I do renounce them.**

□ *Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?*

- ☩ **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**
- ☐ *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?*
- ☩ **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.**
- ☐ *Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?*
- ☩ **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.**
- ☐ *Is it your earnest purpose to continue steadfast in this faith and in the promise of your Baptism and, as a member of the Church, to be diligent in the use of the means of grace and prayer?*
- ☩ **Yes, with the help of God.**
- ☐ *Almighty God, the 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.*
- ☩ **Amen.**

The Easter Vigil Litany

- ☐ *O Lord,*
- ☩ **Have mercy.**
- ☐ *O Christ,*
- ☩ **Have mercy.**
- ☐ *O Lord,*
- ☩ **Have mercy.**
- ☐ *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,*
- ☩ **Hear us.**
- ☐ *Paschal Lamb, Who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,*
- ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- ☐ *Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,*
- ☩ **Have mercy on us.**

- *Who foretold Your Passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *Who destroyed Death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her:*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *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,*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *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,*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,*
 ☩ **Good Lord, deliver us.**
- *By Your victory over sin and death,*
 ☩ **Good Lord, deliver us.**
- *By the majesty of Your risen body,*
 ☩ **Good Lord, deliver us.**

- *We poor sinners implore You,*
 ☩ **To hear us, Lord Jesus.**
- *That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,*
 ☩ **Grant us, good Lord.**
- *That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You,*
 ☩ **Grant us, good Lord.**
- *That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,*
 ☩ **Grant us, good Lord.**
- *Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*
 ☩ **Have mercy on us.**
- *Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*
 ☩ **Grant us Your peace.**
- *O Lord,*
 ☩ **Have mercy.**
- *O Christ,*
 ☩ **Have mercy.**
- *O Lord,*
 ☩ **Have mercy. Amen.**

(The congregation extinguishes their candles at this time.)

The Easter Gospel

- *The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th chapter.*

☩ **♪ Glory to you, O Lord**

"When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed

in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.' " Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

(Mark 16:1-8)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

☩ **♪ Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord.

☩ **O God, Who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the resurrection of our Lord, 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. Amen.**

The Benedicamus and The Blessing

Bless we the Lord.

☩ **♪ Thanks be to God.**

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

☩ **Amen.**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

☩ **The light no darkness can overcome.**

The Closing Hymn *“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”* **#458**

Pastor.....	Pastor Matthew Roeglin
Assisting Minister.....	Vicar Matthew Peters
Readers.....	Members of the Board of Elders
Organist.....	Kenneth Butherus