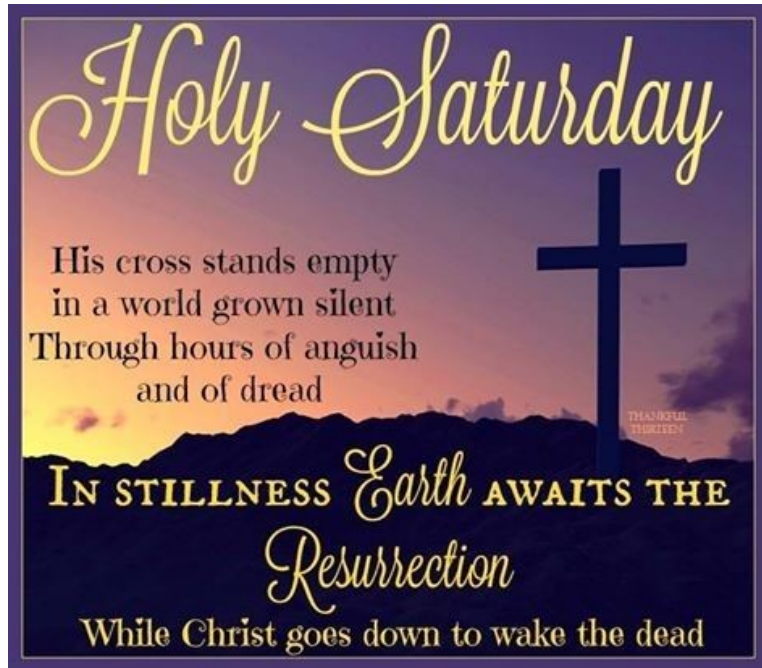




**St. John  
Lutheran  
Church**

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**March 30, 2024**

***Welcome***

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Easter

Vigil. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

May God bless your worship with us today,  
*Paul Kruse, Pastor*

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***'Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live, Learn, Share, and Serve'***

***'Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of Christian faith in our community, to all generations, wherever they may be'***

## A Time of Preparation

### Welcome and Introduction to the Easter Vigil

#### Opening Song

**“Glory Be to Jesus”** LSB 433

Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood  
From His sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion,  
Infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment  
Did the world redeem!

Abel’s blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus  
For our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing  
Make their glad reply.

Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious blood!

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

#### Invocation

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

**C** **Amen.**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** On this holy night, in which Our Lord Jesus passed over from death into life, we are gathered here in vigil and in prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which we share in His victory over death.

**P** Let us pray... O God, by the light of your Holy Spirit kindle in us the fire of Your love. Bless 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 Paschal Candle enters the Sanctuary.*

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

**P** Time and eternity are His; glory and dominion are His, now and forever. By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

**P** The light of Christ.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**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 share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly blessing. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**C Amen**

*The Paschal Candle is placed.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also 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 proper... 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

### **An Introduction to the Readings**

#### **The Creation (Genesis, chapters 1 and 2)**

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Let us pray... Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You wonderfully created all things. Grant that by the power of your Spirit, we may hear your Word, obey your commands, and complete your plan for all creation; through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**G** **Amen.**

#### **The Fall (Genesis, chapter 3)**

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** Let us pray... Almighty God, through Your 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, Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**G** **Amen.**

#### **A Redemption Promise for All (Isaiah, chapter 55)**

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **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.

**G** **Amen.**

#### **The Flood (Genesis, chapter 7)**

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **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 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.

**G Amen.**

## **The Testing of Abraham (Genesis, chapter 22)**

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G Thanks be to God.**

**P** Let us pray... O God, since You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**G Amen.**

## **Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea (Exodus, chapter 14)**

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G 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.

**G Amen.**

## **Jonah Preaches to Nineveh (Jonah chapter 3)**

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G 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 Valley of the Dry Bones (Genesis, chapter 37)**

**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 (Job, chapter 19)**

**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.**

### **Song**

### ***"The Old Rugged Cross"***

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame  
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain **Refrain**

**Ref** So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown

Oh, that old rugged Cross so despised by the world  
Has a wondrous attraction for me  
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary **Refrain**

In the old rugged Cross, stain'd with blood so divine  
A wondrous beauty I see  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me **Refrain**

To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear  
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away  
Where his glory forever I'll share **Refrain**

## **The Reaffirmation of Our Baptism**

- P** Do you renounce the devil, all his works, and all his ways? If so answer...
- C** *Yes, I renounce them.*
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth? If so answer...
- C** *Yes, I believe.*
- P** Do you 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? If so answer...
- C** *Yes, I believe.*
- P** Do you 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? If so answer...
- C** *Yes, I believe.*
- P** Receive the sign of the cross ✠ to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

**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.

## **Litany of the Resurrection**

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** hear us.

**P** The Passover Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,

**C** have mercy on us.

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

**C** have mercy on us.

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

**C** have mercy on us.

**P** 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.

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

**C** have mercy on us.

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

**C** have mercy on us.



- P** 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,
- G have mercy on us.**
- P** Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
- G have mercy on us.**
- P** By Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
- G good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** By Your victory over sin and death,
- G good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** By the majesty of Your risen body,
- G good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness,
- G grant us, good Lord.**
- P** That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been served by You,
- G grant us, good Lord.**
- P** That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,
- G grant us, good Lord.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- G have mercy on us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- G have mercy on us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- G grant us Your peace. Amen.**
- P** The Lord be with you.
- G And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray... O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of our Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption through baptism 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 – Mark 16:1-8**

### **Prayer**

**P** Let us pray... O God, throughout history you have miraculously shown your desire and your plan for the salvation of your creation. 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.**

### **The Easter Acclamation**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

### **Blessing**

**P** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us with him to everlasting life.

**C Amen.**

### **Song**

#### **“Were You There”** *LSB 456*

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?

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?

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?

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?

***The congregation leaves in anticipatory silence.***

