

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

EASTER VIGIL THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO MADE US Saturday, April 19, 2025 5:30 PM

AS WE GATHER

Good Friday, the day of our Lord's crucifixion, death, and burial, was certainly a dark day, and not only emotionally. St. Matthew describes the actual darkness during midday. Even the creation itself turned dark. How could anyone expect a normal night of sleep after such a great tragedy? St. John tells us that after that silent Saturday, Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb early on the first day of the week (Sunday) while it was still dark (John 20:1). Christians have from ancient times concluded the Lenten discipline with a night vigil, sometimes through the darkness of the entire Holy Saturday night until Sunday sunrise to celebrate the "Son-rise" of Jesus' resurrection. And so the great Vigil of Easter is celebrated, centered on the themes of darkness to light and God's rescue of His people by His mighty arm throughout Old Testament history and now through the Word and Sacraments of Christ. With special attention to the first Reading from Genesis 1, tonight's celebration embraces the hand of the Lord at work in all of creation, redemption, and sanctification—the entire life of the Christian.

HYMN "O Blessed Light, O Trinity" LSB 890, sts. 1-2

Please stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

INVITATION

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. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

COLLECT

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.

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

EXSULTET

P 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.

EASTER PROCLAMATION

P 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 when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed 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.

Please sit

THE CREATION *Genesis 1:1, 26-28a; 2:1-3, 15-18, 22; 3:6-10a, 15*

L A reading from Genesis, from the first, second, and third chapters.

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the

sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

(continued...)

²⁷So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
^{28a}And God blessed them.

^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.
²And on the seventh day God finished His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creation.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

THE FIERY FURNACE *Daniel 3:1, 4-6, 8, 12, 16-18, 23-25, 28*

L A reading from Daniel, from the third chapter.

¹King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

⁴And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples,

^{3:6}So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"
¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, ... and I hid myself."

¹⁵[God said to the serpent:] "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

(continued...)

⁶And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.”

⁸Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews.

¹²“There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

²³And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” ²⁵He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

²⁸Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.”

L 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 “Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense” LSB 741, sts. 1-3

PSALM 16 (*read responsively*)

P ¹Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

C ²I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

P ³As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

C ⁴The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

P ⁵The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

C ⁶The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

P ⁷I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

C ⁸I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

P ⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

C ¹⁰For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

P ¹¹You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

ALL:

**GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON
AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

**AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING,
IS NOW, AND WILL BE FOREVER.
AMEN.**

HYMN “Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense” LSB 741, sts. 6-8

Please stand

GOSPEL Matthew 28:1-4; Luke 24:5-9, 12

^{28:1}Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

^{24:5}And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has risen.

(continued...)

Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸And they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

¹²But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And 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.**

**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. Amen.**

Please sit

SERMON HYMN “O Worship the King” LSB 804, sts. 1-6

SERMON “THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO MADE US” The Rev. Peter Gueldner

TITHES AND OFFERING

Please stand

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us now confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

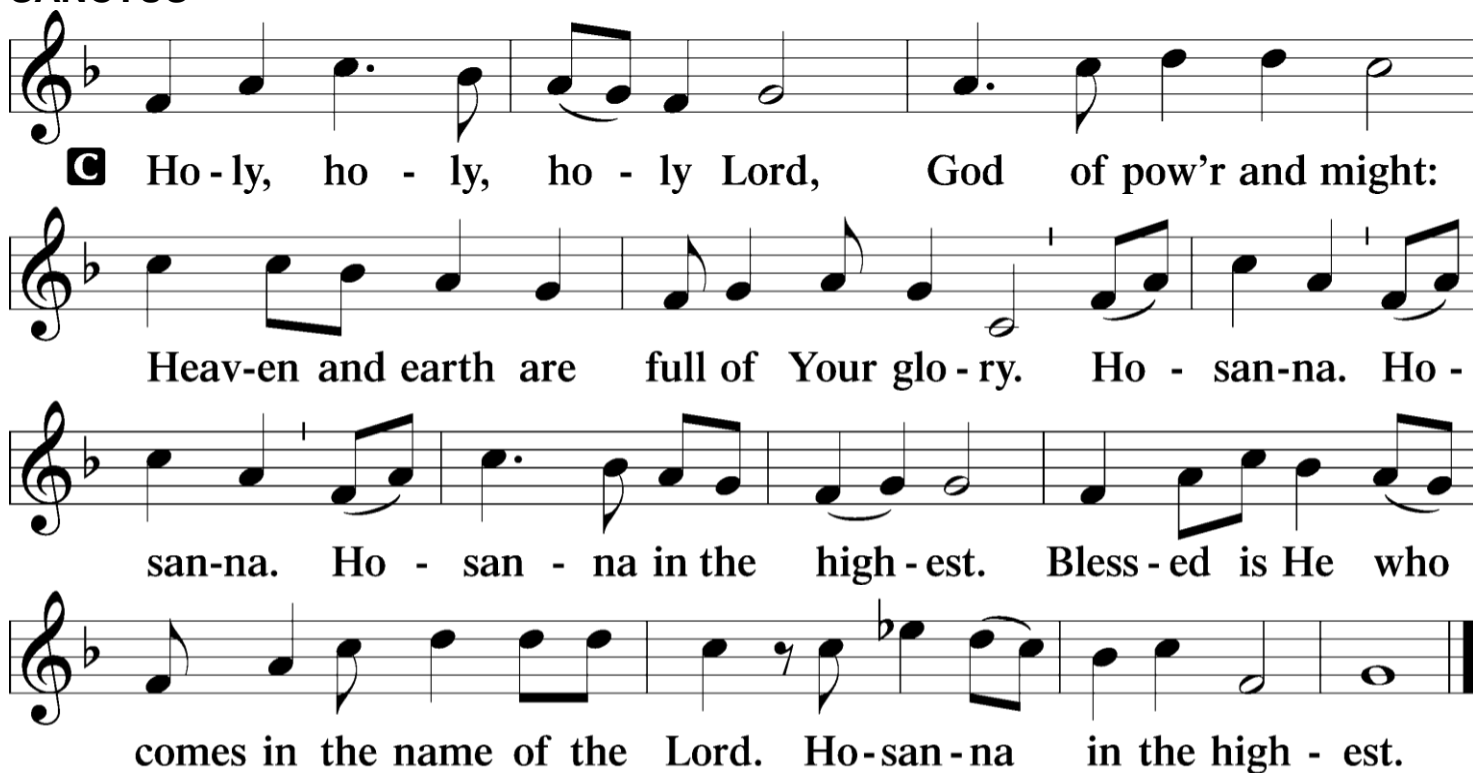
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

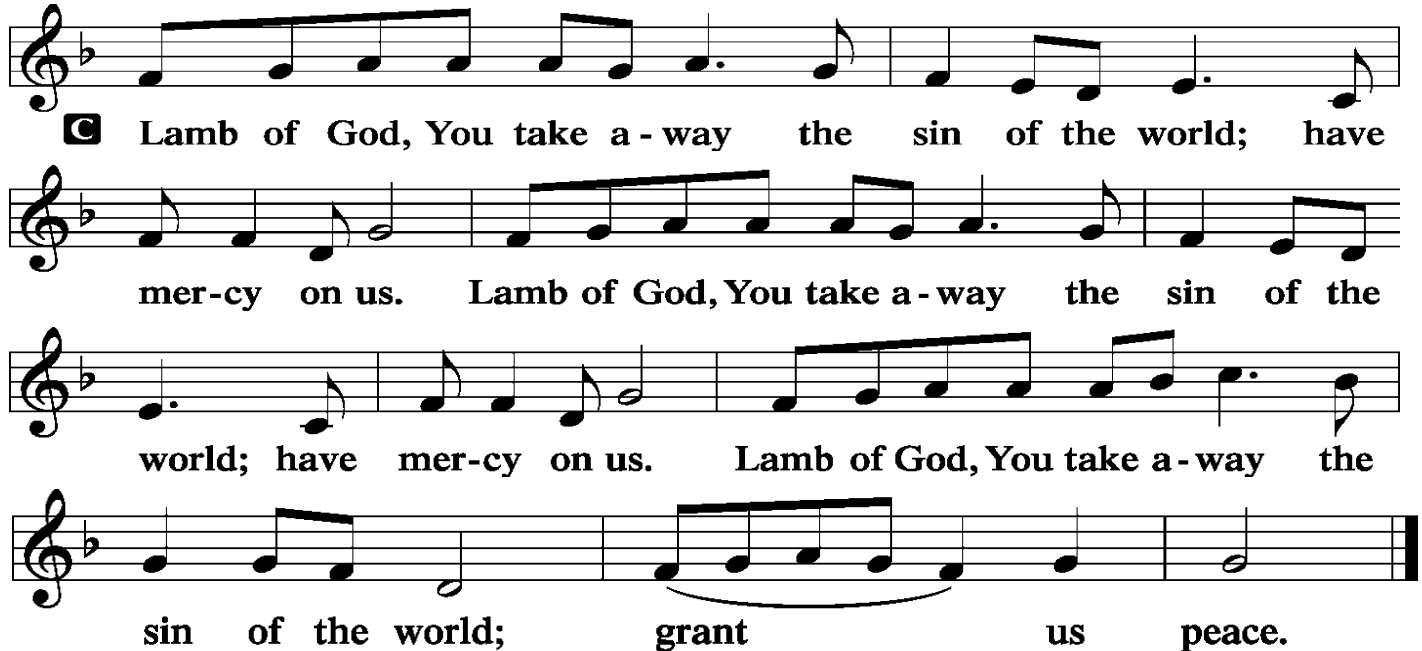
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI “Lamb of God”


☐ Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness” LSB 636, sts. 1-2, 4-6

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” LSB 621, sts. 1-4

After the distribution—please stand

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.

C Amen.

COLLECT

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.

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN “He Is Arisen! Glorious Word” *LSB* 488, st. 1

Acknowledgments

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Resurrection **SUNDAY**

EASTER SUNDAY—April 20, 8:00 a.m. - Festival Service with Holy Communion
(live streamed and KDHL 920AM)

EASTER SUNDAY—April 20, 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Service with Holy Communion
(live streamed)

Easter Breakfast: April 20, 9-11:00 a.m.

Easter Egg / Scavenger Hunt: April 20, 10:00 a.m.