



Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 30, 2024
5:30 p.m.

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN CHURCH



(All hymns are from the *Lutheran Service Book*.)

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

OPENING HYMN

"Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands"

#458



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands For our of - fens -
 es giv - en; But now at God's right hand He stands
 And brings us life from heav - en. There - fore let us
 joy - ful be And sing to God right thank - ful - ly
 Loud songs of al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ: On this holy eve, as we anticipate our Lord Jesus passing over from death to life, members of the Christian community, dispersed throughout the world, gather in vigil and prayer. We join with the whole company of God's people in recalling and celebrating his victory over death, and our deliverance from the bondage of sin and darkness to everlasting light.

THE NEW TESTAMENT**John 1:1, 4-5**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

A PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray . . .

All: Eternal Lord of life, through your Son you have given your people the brightness of your light. Sanctify this new fire, and kindle in our hearts and minds a holy desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of righteousness. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Pastor: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE HYMN VERSE

"Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands"

#458

2 No son of man could con - quer death, Such ru - in sin
had wrought us. No in - no - cence was found on earth,
And there - fore death had brought us In - to bond - age
from of old And ev - er grew more strong and bold



The congregation may be seated.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE FALL INTO SIN

Genesis 3 (selected verses)

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

People: His love endures forever.

A PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray . . .

All: Lord God, our maker and source of life, out of love you created us to bear your image and to live in constant fellowship with you. In the same way that Adam and Eve broke fellowship with you through disobedience and rebellion, so we, too, have turned from Your ways and severed our relationship with our Lord. We have foolishly tried to satisfy our spiritual hunger with the temporal things of this world. Though we were banished from your presence because of our sin, You sent Jesus your Son to die on a cross that we might be raised with him in newness of life and be eternally restored to your presence. May the power of the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead give us new life that we may once again bear your image. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THE HYMN VERSE

"Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands"

#458



3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came down, His peo - ple to
de - liv - er; De - stroy - ing sin, He took the crown
From death's pale brow for - ev - er: Stripped of pow'r, no
more it reigns; An emp - ty form a - lone re - mains;
Its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!

ABRAHAM'S OBEDIENCE ON MT. MORIAH

Genesis 22:1-18

Sometime 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."

Reader: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

People: His love endures forever.

A PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray . . .

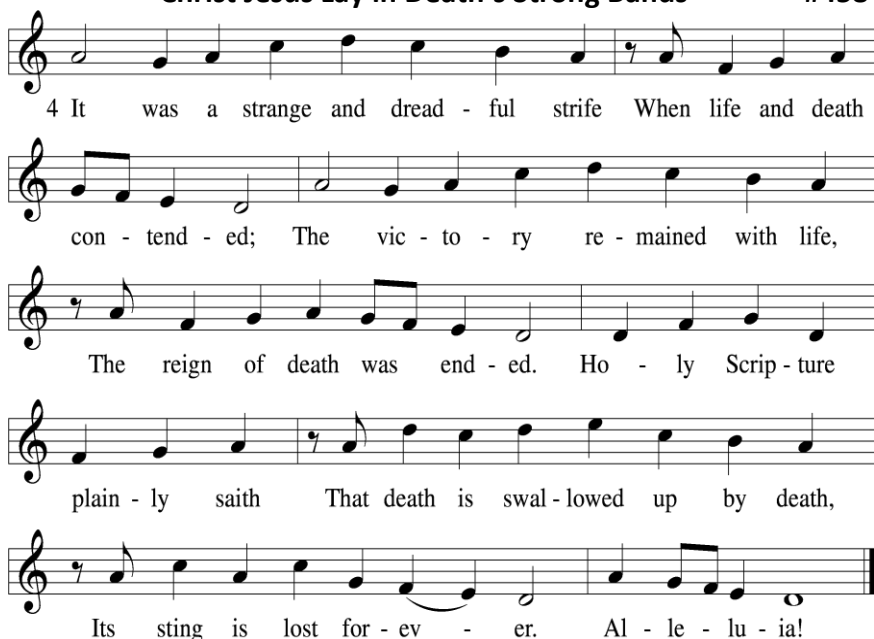
All: God and Father of all those who believe in You, You promised Abraham that he would become the father of all nations, and through this paschal mystery You increase Your chosen people throughout the world. Help us respond to Your call by joyfully accepting the

new life of grace. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HYMN VERSE

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”

#458



4 It was a strange and dread - ful strife When life and death
con - tend - ed; The vic - to - ry re - mained with life,
The reign of death was end - ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture
plain - ly saith That death is swal - lowed up by death,
Its sting is lost for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!

THE PASSOVER

Exodus 12 (selected verses)

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

People: His love endures forever.

A PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray . . .

All: O Christ, our Passover Lamb, you have sprinkled us with your shed blood, that our sins would be covered and atoned for. Through Your sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection, we have passed over from death to life. Bring us, with all your saints, into that promised and eternal Kingdom that we may feast at the banquet table with Christ, our Redeemer and Passover Lamb. Amen.

THE HYMN VERSE

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”

#458



5 Here our true Pas - chal Lamb we see, Whom God so free -
ly gave us; He died on the ac - curs - ed tree—
So strong His love— to save us. See, His blood now
marks our door; Faith points to it; death pass - es o'er,
And Sa - tan can - not harm us. Al - le - lu - ia!

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE FROM PHARAOH

Exodus 14 (selected verses)

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

People: His love endures forever.

THE SONG OF MOSES

Exodus 15:1-18

Pastor: Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

People: I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.

Pastor: The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

People: He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Pastor: The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea.

People: The best of Pharaoh's officers are drowned in the Red Sea.

Pastor: The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

People: Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.

Pastor: Who among the gods is like you, O LORD?

People: Who is like you -- majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

Pastor: You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them.

People: In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

Pastor: You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance -- the place, O LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands established.

People: The LORD will reign for ever and ever.

A PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray . . .

All: O Steadfast Love, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham and may rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A NEW HEART & A NEW SPIRIT Ezekiel 37 (selected verses)

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

People: His love endures forever.

A PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray . . .

All: God of holiness and light, in the mystery of dying and rising with Christ you have established a new covenant of reconciliation. Cleanse our hearts and give a new spirit to all your people, that your saving grace may be professed and proclaimed to the whole world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HYMN VERSE

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

#465

1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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DYING AND RISING WITH CHRIST Romans 6 (selected verses)

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

People: His love endures forever.

A PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray . . .

All: Living God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness, and out of death into life. Through the gifts of Word and Sacrament, grant us a new understanding of your mercy and grant us the will and power to proclaim you to all the world. Bring to completion your saving work, so that the whole world may see the fallen lifted up, the old made new, and all things brought to perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HYMN VERSE

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

#465

2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
life And by His pres - ence stills all
strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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The congregation will rise.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin and of our being grafted into Christ. We are buried with Christ by baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism.

Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

People: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to the people of all ages, nations, and races?

People: I do.

Pastor: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers of the church?

People: I will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with the help of God.

Pastor: According to the grace given you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

People: I will, with the help of God.

THE PROCLAMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

People: **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

People: **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.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Pastor: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

All: **You have given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and have forgiven our sins. Continue to give us your grace that we may live in obedience to you, in the power of the resurrection which we now celebrate, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

THE BAPTISMAL HYMN

“Beautiful Waters”

(Sung to the tune “Blessed Assurance”)

Beautiful waters flowed over me,
When at the font of God’s grace I received,
Touched by the pow’r of God’s holy name,
My life in Jesus, ever remains.

Praise to the Father, Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three-in-One.
No god besides Him, ever shall be,
Who brings salvation to you and me.

Baptized in Jesus, cleansed by His blood,
Now I’m connected to His awesome love.
Joined to His suff’ring, His death, and the grave,
His resurrection, I know I’m saved.
Praise to the Father, Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three-in-One.
No god besides Him, ever shall be,
Who brings salvation to you and me.

Baptism waters, joined to God’s Word,
Comes with God’s Spirit, forgiveness, and pow’r,
Now in these blessings a new life I live,
All that I am now, to Jesus I give.
Praise to the Father, Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three-in-One.
No god besides Him, ever shall be,
Who brings salvation to you and me.

Let me dear Jesus, each morning anew
Baptism's cov'nant, sincerely renew.
Daily contrition, repentance in faith,
Drown the "Old Man," the "New Man" give place.
Praise to the Father, Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three-in-One.
No god besides Him, ever shall be,
Who brings salvation to you and me.

THE EASTER GOSPEL

Mark 16:1-8

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th chapter.

People: 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

VOLUNTARY

Diane Magill

As we listen to the Voluntary, we ask that each worship household fill out the attendance "Green Card," located in your ministry folder. Please place them in the offering plate when you leave. Thank you.

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: 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 INSTITUTION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Pastor: The Lord is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Almighty God, you bring us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

#465

3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; Set
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our
 day Lord, That by our lives we tru - ly
 To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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THE POSTLUDE

"Thine is the Glory"

Thomas