



# **Easter Vigil**

**April 15th, 2017**

**Mount Calvary**

**Lutheran Church**

**7:00 PM**

## First Words

St. Paul exhorts us to "pray without ceasing." Luther explains that Paul is telling us our whole lives should consist of worship and prayer, thus we live a life of praise. From ancient times, Christians have practiced this exhortation literally, praying all night long in a vigil. A vigil is for the purpose of waiting and watching. Here, the entire plan of God's salvation unfolds. Here God's holy light shatters the darkness. Here the baptized who were born in spiritual darkness are renewed as children of light. All of this because of Christ's shattering the chains of eternal death through His death on the cross and in confident anticipation of His rising again on "the third day." Just as Christ stands waiting to greet us when we are risen from the grave, so we now in this holy worship, through prayer and meditation, wait for the first light of the third day to join with all the hosts of heaven and the faithful on earth shouting

**"CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!"**

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

(The service begins in the Fellowship Hall.

This is the time of the Kindling of the New Fire.

The church remains dim. There is just a hint of hope of the news to come.)

*Please Stand*

### **KINDLING OF THE NEW FIRE:**

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

**C** **Amen**

**P** *We remember how often God has chosen fire to symbolize His presence: leading Israel from slavery, the tongues of fire at the day of Pentecost, . . . Today a new fire is kindled.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

**P** *Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and in prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word, 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. Sanctify this new fire that, burning with the fire of Your holy love, we may be made ready to share in the feast of infinite light; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.*

**C** **Amen.**

(The congregation enters the sanctuary in complete silence.)

### **PREPARATION OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE:**

(The paschal candle symbolizes the presence of the risen Christ among us. Throughout the Easter season, it will remain near the altar and lighted for worship. At Ascension, the candle will be extinguished and brought out with the baptismal font where it will be lit for every Baptism as a reminder that Christ is our Light that shatters the darkness.)

(The pastor traces the cross and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega upon the paschal candle, saying:)

### **Blessing of the Paschal Candle**

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

**P** *Scripture states that by His wounds we are healed now and forever. Amen.*

(As the paschal candle is now lit from the newly kindled fire, the pastor says:)

**P** *May the light of Christ, rising in glory from the depths of death, hell and the grave, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds. Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in anticipation of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your blessing. Once we were in darkness but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**C** **Amen**

**P** *The light of Christ.*

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

*Please Be Seated*

## HYMN: 810 O God of God, O Light of Light

- 1 O God of God, O Light of Light,  
O Prince of Peace and King of kings:  
To you in heaven's glory bright  
The song of praise forever rings.  
To Him who sits upon the throne,  
The Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory He has won,  
All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.
- 2 For deep in prophets' sacred page,  
And grand in poets' wingèd word,  
Slowly in type, from age to age  
The nations saw their coming Lord;  
Till through the deep Judean night  
Rang out the song, "Goodwill to men!"  
Sung once by firstborn sons of light,  
It echoes now, "Goodwill!" Amen.
- 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love,  
That death so steeped in hate and scorn—  
These all are past, and now above  
He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!  
So sang that host beyond our ken.  
Lift up your heads, your King awaits.  
We lift them up. Amen, amen.
- 4 Then raise to Christ a mighty song,  
And shout His name, His mercies tell!  
Sing, heav'nly host, your praise prolong,  
And all on earth, your anthem swell!  
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain!  
Forever let the song ascend!  
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,  
All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.

*Please Stand*

**PROCLAMATION:**

**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** *What a joy it is to give thanks and praise to the Father Almighty and to His Son Jesus, our Lord.*

**C** **Jesus Christ, Paschal Lamb, we praise Your name!**

**P** *You paid the debt of our sin and by Your blood You have brought us redemption.*

**C** **Jesus Christ, Paschal Lamb, we praise Your name!**

**P** *You are indeed the Paschal Lamb who was offered for the sins of the whole world.*

**C** **Jesus Christ, Paschal Lamb, we praise Your name!**

**P** *On this night You brought our spiritual ancestors out of bondage in Egypt.*

**C** **Jesus Christ, Paschal Lamb, we praise Your name!**

**P** *On this night You delivered us from bondage to sin.*

**C** **Jesus Christ, Paschal Lamb, we praise Your name!**

**P** *On this night You rose victorious over death and the grave.*

**C** **Jesus Christ, Paschal Lamb, we praise Your name!**

**P** *Send us Your glorious light, O Lord, that we might be filled with Your new and abundant life.*

**C** **Amen**

*Please Be Seated*

**SERVICE OF READINGS**

**P** *Since the beginning of time our God has lived up to His promises of salvation. Let us hear from His Word about promises made and promises kept.*

**FIRST LESSON:** (The Flood)

**Genesis 7:1-5...**

Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation.

[2] Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, [3] and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. [4] For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." [5] And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him... **Genesis 7:11-24** In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. [12] And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. [13] On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, [14] they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. [15] They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. [16] And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the Lord shut him in. [17] The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. [18] The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. [19] And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. [20] The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. [21] And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. [22] Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. [23] He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. [24] And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days... **Genesis 8:6-18** At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made [7] and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. [8] Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. [9] But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. [10] He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the

ark. [11] And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. [12] Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore. [13] In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. [14] In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. [15] Then God said to Noah, [16] "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. [17] Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." [18] So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him...

**Genesis 9:8-13** Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, [9] "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, [10] and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. [11] I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." [12] And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: [13] I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

**P** *O Lord, You saved Noah and his family by the waters of the flood. We praise You that by the waters of Holy Baptism You have saved us as well.*

**C** **Lead us to rejoice in our baptism day after day! Amen**

## **HYMN: 601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized**

- 1 All who believe and are baptized  
Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
They are a new creation.  
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand  
Among the glorious, heav'nly band  
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.

(Continued on next page)

2           With one accord, O God, we pray:  
              Grant us Your Holy Spirit.  
              Help us in our infirmity  
              Through Jesus' blood and merit.  
              Grant us to grow in grace each day  
              That by this sacrament we may  
              Eternal life inherit.

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## **SECOND LESSON:** (Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac)

### **Genesis 22:1-18**

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." [2] He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." [3] So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. [4] On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. [5] Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." [6] And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. [7] And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" [8] Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. [9] When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. [10] Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. [11] But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." [12] He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." [13] And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. [14] So Abraham called the name of that place, "The

Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided." [15] And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven [16] and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, [17] I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the sea-shore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, [18] and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

**P** *Almighty God, You spared the life of Your servant Isaac. We give You thanks that because of Your great mercy You have spared us as well and have given us new life.*

**C** **Lead us to rejoice in Your mercy day after day! Amen**

### **HYMN: 604 I Bind unto Myself Today**

- 1 I bind unto myself today  
The strong name of the Trinity  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One and One in Three.
- 2 I bind this day to me forever,  
By pow'r of faith, Christ's incarnation,  
His Baptism in the Jordan River,  
His cross of death for my salvation,  
His bursting from the spicèd tomb,  
His riding up the heav'nly way,  
His coming at the day of doom,  
I bind unto myself today.
- 5 I bind unto myself the name,  
The strong name of the Trinity  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One and One in Three,  
Of whom all nature has creation,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word.  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord!

### **THIRD LESSON: (Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea)**

#### **Exodus 14:10-15:11**

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. [11] They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? [12] Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." [13] And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. [14] The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." [15] The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. [16] Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. [17] And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. [18] And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen." [19] Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, [20] coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

[21] Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. [22] And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. [23] The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. [24] And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, [25] clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."

[26] Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." [27] So Moses stretched out his hand over the

sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the Lord threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. [28] The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. [29] But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. [30] Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. [31] Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

[15:1] Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. [2] The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. [3] The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name. [4] "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. [5] The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. [6] Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy. [7] In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. [8] At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. [9] The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' [10] You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. [11] "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

**P** *Powerful Father, You delivered Your people from bondage to the Egyptians. We praise You that You have delivered us from bondage to sin and death.*

**C** **Lead us to rejoice in our deliverance from bondage day after day! Amen**

## **HYMN: 798, Vs. 5-6, The God of Abraham Praise**

5        Though nature's strength decay,  
            And earth and hell withstand,  
            To Canaan's bounds I urge my way  
            At His command.  
            The wat'ry deep I pass,  
            With Jesus in my view,  
            And through the howling wilderness  
            My way pursue.

6        The goodly land I see,  
            With peace and plenty blest:  
            A land of sacred liberty  
            And endless rest.  
            There milk and honey flow,  
            And oil and wine abound,  
            And trees of life forever grow  
            With mercy crowned.

### **FOURTH LESSON: (Faith strained but victorious)**

#### **Job 19:20-27**

My bones stick to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. [21] Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! [22] Why do you, like God, pursue me? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh? [23] "Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! [24] Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! [25] For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. [26] And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, [27] whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

**[P]** *O God, You are our redeemer the living God, whom we will see with our eyes, in our own bodies on the day of our resurrection.*

**[C]** **Lead us Oh Lord in the sure promise of the resurrection of our bodies to live in the world to come. Amen.**

## FIFTH LESSON: (Baptism Saves)

### 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? [14] But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, [15] but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; [16] yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. [17] For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

[18] For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, [19] in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, [20] because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. [21] Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, [22] who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**P** *O God, You brought faith and hope to Your servant Noah through the flood, saving him and his family. We thank You that You have kept us safe in the waters of Holy Baptism, the ark which saves us from sin. We thank You that You have filled us with faith and hope in a living Redeemer.*

**C** **Lead us to rejoice with faith and with hope day after day!**

**Amen**

### HYMN: 596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized

- 4 In Baptism we now put on Christ—  
Our shame is fully covered  
With all that He once sacrificed  
And freely for us suffered.  
For here the flood of His own blood  
Now makes us holy, right, and good  
Before our heav'nly Father.

(Continued on next page)

5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift  
And give God thanks forever!  
It gives the power to uplift  
In all that you endeavor.  
When nothing else revives your soul,  
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole  
And then in death completes you.

6 So use it well! You are made new—  
In Christ a new creation!  
As faithful Christians, live and do  
Within your own vocation,  
Until that day when you possess  
His glorious robe of righteousness  
Bestowed on you forever!

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## SERVICE OF BAPTISMAL RENEWAL

(Easter Eve was traditionally the time for the administration of Holy Baptism in the 1st Century Church. St. Paul connects our Baptism with the death and burial of Christ. Tonight we celebrate the renewal of our baptismal vows. We celebrate Christ's life-giving death and triumph over the powers of sin, death, and darkness.)

**LESSON:** (In our baptism we are linked eternally to Christ's death and resurrection.)

### **Romans 6:3-11**

"[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, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." (NIV)

## **BAPTISMAL HYMN: 590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy**

- 1           Baptized into Your name most holy,  
              O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
              Among Your saints, Your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,  
Your Spirit now shall live within.
- 2           My loving Father, here You take me  
              To be henceforth Your child and heir.  
My faithful Savior, here You make me  
              The fruit of all Your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me  
When threat'ning clouds around I see.
- 3           My faithful God, You fail me never;  
              Your promise surely will endure.  
O cast me not away forever  
              If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.
- 4           All that I am and love most dearly—  
              Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely;  
              Help me Your faithful child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but Yours alone.

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*Please Stand*

### **Remembrance and Renewal of Your Baptism**

**P** *In Holy Baptism Jesus gives us the crown of His mercy, love, and grace. It is through the washing of water and Word that we are united to our Lord's death and resurrection. We remind ourselves of the vows that were made at our Baptism and reaffirmed at our Confirmation:*

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

**C** **I do renounce them.**

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

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

**C** **I will, with God's help.**

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

**C** **I will, with God's help.**

**P** *Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?*

**C** **I will, with God's help.**

**P** *Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?*

**C** **I will, with God's help.**

**P** *May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us faithful until that day when we receive the crown of life by His grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Make the sign of the Cross, both upon your forehead and upon your heart to remind yourself that you are one redeemed by Christ the crucified.*

**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.*

**P** *From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for their neighbor.*

(The pastor pours water three times into the basin saying:)

**P** *You were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and have been declared a Child of God.*

**C** **Amen.**

**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** *You received a **white garment** to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you before the foundation of the world.*

**P** *You received a burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.*

**PRAYER:**

**P** *Let us pray. O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the anticipation of the glory of the resurrection of our Lord, preserve in all Your people the spirit of adoption which You have given through Holy Baptism in which we were buried and raised with Christ, that, made alive in body, mind, and soul, we may worship and serve You truly; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Bless we the Lord.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**BLESSING:**

**P** *God has kept His people throughout time. He has protected them and ultimately delivered them from sin through His Son, the Savior promised to each generation. We read in Psalm 145, “The Lord is faithful to all His promises.” We can therefore be confident that God will continue to keep His promises and will one day raise us to new life with Him. Strengthened by the Spirit through the renewal of our Baptismal vows we can say:*

**C** **“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.”** (Hebrews 10:23)

**P** *Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please Be Seated*

**HYMN: 597 Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying**

1        Water, blood, and Spirit crying,  
          By their witness testifying  
          To the One whose death-defying  
          Life has come, with life for all.

- 2 In a wat'ry grave are buried  
All our sins that Jesus carried;  
Christ, the Ark of Life, has ferried  
Us across death's raging flood.
- 3 Dark the way, yet Christ precedes us,  
Past the scowl of death He leads us;  
Spreads a table where He feeds us  
With His body and His blood.
- 4 Though around us death is seething,  
God, His two-edged sword unsheathing,  
By His Spirit life is breathing  
Through the living, active Word.
- 5 Spirit, water, blood entreating,  
Working faith and its completing  
In the One whose death-defeating  
Life has come, with life for all.

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As we are in continual worship these last three days there again is no benediction. Tomorrow the day Christ rose from the dead, worship will end to begin again at the benediction. Words when properly understood proclaim, God has looked upon you with Grace and now you will not die but live. (Our Easter Vigil Service reaches its climax in tomorrow's celebration of Holy Communion. Here the newness of life which we have been celebrating this night comes to us in the body and blood of Jesus, working in us the forgiveness of sins. Our Easter celebration therefore will continue in the morning. It is the principle Feast of the church year--the Feast of the Resurrection of Our **Lord!**)

### **Easter Morning Schedule**

6:30 a.m. Resurrection Sunrise Worship

7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Resurrection Worship with Holy Communion



