

Welcome!

This is
the night



*Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Easter Vigil*

Our Mission: Empowered and Inspired by God to bring others to Christ.

Resurrection of Our Lord, Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 19, 2025 ~ 7:00 pm

This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

~The Blessing of the New Light~

THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

And also with you.

LET US PRAY: SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST, ON THIS MOST HOLY NIGHT WHEN OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE, WE GATHER WITH THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN VIGIL AND PRAYER. THIS IS THE PASSOVER OF JESUS CHRIST. THROUGH LIGHT AND THE WORD, THROUGH WATER AND OIL, BREAD AND WINE, WE PROCLAIM CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION, SHARE CHRIST'S TRIUMPH OVER SIN AND DEATH, AND AWAIT CHRIST'S COMING AGAIN IN GLORY.

Amen.

CHRIST, YESTERDAY AND TODAY, THE BEGINNING AND THE ENDING. TO CHRIST BELONGS ALL TIME AND ALL THE AGES; TO CHRIST BELONGS GLORY AND DOMINION NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

MAY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, RISING IN GLORY, DISPEL THE DARKNESS OF OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.

The Paschal Candle is lit.

THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

And also with you.

LET US PRAY: POUR OUT YOUR ABUNDANT BLESSINGS ON THIS LIGHTED CANDLE, SO THAT ALL WHO SHARE THIS NIGHT IN YOUR HOLY MYSTERIES MAY BE FILLED WITH YOUR GRACE AND SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS. ONCE WE WERE IN THE DARKNESS, BUT SINCE WE HAVE BECOME THE LORD'S PEOPLE WE ARE IN THE LIGHT. HELP US TO LIVE AS PEOPLE WHO BELONG TO THE LIGHT, THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD.

Amen.

*The Candles of the people in the pews are lit by the acolytes.
As the new light is carried to the front of the church, we sing:*

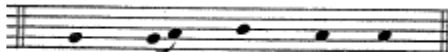
THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
Thanks be to God.

~The Exsultet~

EXULT, LET THEM EXULT, THE HOSTS OF HEAVEN, EXULT, LET ANGEL MINISTERS OF GOD EXULT, LET THE TRUMPET OF SALVATION SOUND ALOUD OUR MIGHTY KING'S TRIUMPH! BE GLAD, LET EARTH BE GLAD, AS GLORY FLOODS HER, ABLAZE WITH LIGHT FROM HER ETERNAL KING, LET ALL CORNERS OF THE EARTH BE GLAD, KNOWING AN END TO GLOOM AND DARKNESS. REJOICE, LET MOTHER CHURCH ALSO REJOICE, ARRAYED WITH THE LIGHTNING OF HIS GLORY, LET THIS HOLY BUILDING SHAKE WITH JOY, FILLED WITH THE MIGHTY VOICES OF THE PEOPLES.

THEREFORE, DEAREST FRIENDS, STANDING IN THE AWESOME GLORY OF THE HOLY LIGHT, INVOKE WITH ME, I ASK YOU, THE MERCY OF GOD ALMIGHTY, THAT HE, WHO HAS BEEN PLEASED TO NUMBER ME, THOUGH UNWORTHY, AMONG THE LEVITES, MAY POUR INTO ME HIS LIGHT UNSHADOWED, THAT I MAY SING THIS CANDLE'S PERFECT PRAISES.

THE LORD BE WITH YOU.



R. And with your spi - rit.)

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.



R. We lift them up to the Lord.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.



R. It is right and just.

IT IS TRULY RIGHT AND JUST, WITH ARDENT LOVE OF MIND AND HEART, AND WITH DEVOTED SERVICE OF OUR VOICE, TO ACCLAIM OUR GOD INVISIBLE, THE ALMIGHTY FATHER, AND JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD HIS SON, HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN. WHO FOR OUR SAKE PAID ADAM'S DEBT TO THE ETERNAL FATHER, AND POURING OUT HIS OWN DEAR BLOOD, WIPED CLEAN THE RECORD OF OUR ANCIENT SINFULNESS. THESE, THEN, ARE THE FEASTS OF PASSOVER, IN WHICH IS SLAIN THE LAMB, THE ONE TRUE LAMB, WHOSE BLOOD ANOINTS THE DOORPOSTS OF BELIEVERS.

THIS IS THE NIGHT, WHEN ONCE YOU LED OUR FOREBEARS, ISRAEL'S CHILDREN, FROM SLAVERY IN EGYPT, AND MADE THEM PASS DRY-SHOD THROUGH THE RED SEA. THIS IS THE NIGHT THAT WITH A PILLAR OF FIRE BANISHED THE DARKNESS OF SIN. THIS IS THE NIGHT THAT EVEN NOW, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, SETS CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS APART FROM WORLDLY VICES AND FROM THE GLOOM OF SIN, LEADING THEM TO GRACE AND JOINING THEM TO HIS HOLY ONES.

THIS IS THE NIGHT WHEN CHRIST BROKE THE PRISON BARS OF DEATH AND ROSE VICTORIOUS FROM THE UNDERWORLD. OUR BIRTH WOULD HAVE BEEN NO GAIN, HAD WE NOT BEEN REDEEMED.

O WONDER OF YOUR HUMBLE CARE FOR US! O LOVE, O CHARITY BEYOND ALL TELLING, TO RANSOM A SLAVE YOU GAVE AWAY YOUR SON! O TRULY NECESSARY SIN OF ADAM, DESTROYED COMPLETELY BY THE DEATH OF CHRIST! O HAPPY FAULT THAT EARNED SO GREAT, SO GLORIOUS A REDEEMER!

O TRULY BLESSED NIGHT, WORTHY ALONE TO KNOW THE TIME AND HOUR WHEN CHRIST ROSE FROM THE UNDERWORLD! THIS IS THE NIGHT OF WHICH IT IS WRITTEN: THE NIGHT SHALL BE AS BRIGHT AS DAY, DAZZLING IS THE NIGHT FOR ME, AND FULL OF GLADNESS. THE SANCTIFYING POWER OF THIS NIGHT DISPELS WICKEDNESS, WASHES FAULTS AWAY, RESTORES INNOCENCE TO THE FALLEN, AND JOY TO MOURNERS, DRIVES OUT HATRED, FOSTERS CONCORD, AND BRINGS DOWN THE MIGHTY.

ON THIS, YOUR NIGHT OF GRACE, O HOLY FATHER, ACCEPT THIS CANDLE, A SOLEMN OFFERING, THE WORK OF BEES AND OF YOUR SERVANTS' HANDS, AN EVENING SACRIFICE OF PRAISE, THIS GIFT FROM YOUR MOST HOLY CHURCH. BUT NOW WE KNOW THE PRAISES OF THIS PILLAR, WHICH GLOWING FIRE IGNITES FOR GOD'S HONOR, A FIRE INTO MANY FLAMES DIVIDED, YET NEVER DIMMED BY SHARING OF ITS LIGHT, FOR IT IS FED BY MELTING WAX, DRAWN OUT BY MOTHER BEES TO BUILD A TORCH SO PRECIOUS. O TRULY BLESSED NIGHT, WHEN THINGS OF HEAVEN ARE WED TO THOSE OF EARTH, AND DIVINE TO THE HUMAN.

THEREFORE, O LORD, WE PRAY YOU THAT THIS CANDLE, HALLOWED TO THE HONOR OF YOUR NAME, MAY PERSEVERE UNDIMMED, TO OVERCOME THE DARKNESS OF THIS NIGHT. RECEIVE IT AS A PLEASING FRAGRANCE, AND LET IT MINGLE WITH THE LIGHTS OF HEAVEN. MAY THIS FLAME BE FOUND STILL BURNING BY THE MORNING STAR: THE ONE MORNING STAR WHO NEVER SETS, CHRIST YOUR SON, WHO, COMING BACK FROM DEATH'S DOMAIN, HAS SHED HIS PEACEFUL LIGHT ON HUMANITY, AND LIVES AND REIGNS FOR EVER AND EVER.

(Sung) Amen.

[Please Extinguish Your Candles and Be Seated]

~The Service of Light~

(We will sit for the readings and the psalms, stand for the prayers)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

WE HAVE BEGUN OUR SOLEMN VIGIL. AS WE WATCH AND WAIT, LET US LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD, RECALLING GOD'S SAVING ACTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND HOW, IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, GOD'S WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US: JESUS CHRIST, OUR REDEEMER.

The First Reading Creation **Genesis 1:1-2:4a**

The Response from Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 *(Sung to tone No. 3)*

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR | HE IS GOOD,*FOR HIS MERCY EN- | DURES FOREVER.

Give thanks to the | God of gods,*for his mercy en | dures forever.

GIVE THANKS TO THE | LORD OF LORDS,*FOR HIS MERCY EN- | DURES FOREVER;

who only | does great wonders,*for his mercy en | dures forever;

WHO BY WISDOM | MADE THE HEAVENS,*FOR HIS MERCY EN- | DURES FOREVER;

who spread out the earth up- | on the waters,*for his mercy en | dures forever;

WHO CREAT- | ED GREAT LIGHTS,*FOR HIS MERCY EN- | DURES FOREVER;

the sun to | rule the day,*for his mercy en- | dures forever;

THE MOON AND THE STARS TO GOV- | ERN THE NIGHT,*FOR HIS MERCY EN- | DURES FOREVER;

who remembered us in our | low estate,*for his mercy en- | dures forever;

AND DELIVERED US | FROM OUR ENEMIES,*FOR HIS MERCY EN- | DURES FOREVER;

who gives food | to all creatures,*for his mercy en- | dures forever.

GIVE THANKS TO THE | GOD OF HEAVEN,*FOR HIS MERCY EN- | DURES FOREVER.

LET US PRAY: ALMIGHTY GOD, YOU WONDERFULLY CREATED THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN NATURE AND YET MORE WONDERFULLY RESTORED IT. IN YOUR MERCY, LET US SHARE THE DIVINE LIFE OF HIM WHO CAME TO SHARE OUR HUMANITY, JESUS CHRIST YOUR SON, OUR LORD.

Amen.

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

The Response from Psalm 46 (*Sung to tone No. 3*)

GOD IS OUR REF- | UGE AND STRENGTH,*A VERY PRESENT | HELP IN TROUBLE.

Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,*

and though the mountains be toppled into the depths | of the sea;

THOUGH ITS WATERS | RAGE AND FOAM,*

AND THOUGH THE MOUNTAINS TREMBLE | AT ITS TUMULT.

The LORD of | hosts is with us;*the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

THERE IS A RIVER WHOSE STREAMS MAKE GLAD THE CIT- | Y OF GOD,*

THE HOLY HABITATION OF | THE MOST HIGH.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be | overthrown;*

God shall help her at the | break of day.

THE NATIONS MAKE MUCH ADO, AND THE KING- | DOMS ARE SHAKEN;*

GOD HAS SPOKEN, AND THE EARTH SHALL | MELT AWAY.

The LORD of | hosts is with us;*the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

LET US PRAY: ALMIGHTY GOD, YOU HAVE PLACED THE RAINBOW IN THE SKIES AS A SIGN OF YOUR COVENANT WITH ALL LIVING THINGS. GRANT THAT WE, WHO ARE SAVED THROUGH WATER AND THE SPIRIT, MAY WORTHILY OFFER TO YOU OUR SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Amen.

The Third Reading The Testing of Abraham **Genesis 22:1-18**

The Response from Psalm 16 (*Sung to tone No. 3*)

PROTECT ME, O GOD, FOR I TAKE REF- | UGE IN YOU;*

I HAVE SAID TO THE LORD, "YOU ARE MY LORD, MY GOOD A- | BOVE ALL OTHER."

All my delight is upon the godly that are | in the land,*

upon those who are noble a | mong the people.

BUT THOSE WHO RUN AFTER | OTHER GODS*

SHALL HAVE THEIR TROUBLES | MULTIPLIED.

Their libations of blood I | will not offer,*

nor take the names of their gods up- | on my lips.

O LORD, YOU ARE MY PORTION | AND MY CUP;*IT IS YOU WHO UP- | HOLD MY LOT.

My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;*indeed, I have a | goodly heritage.

I WILL BLESS THE LORD WHO | GIVES ME COUNSEL;*
MY HEART TEACHES ME NIGHT | AFTER NIGHT.

I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;*
because he is at my right hand, I | shall not fall.

MY HEART, THEREFORE, IS GLAD, AND MY SPIR- | IT REJOICES;*
MY BODY ALSO SHALL | REST IN HOPE.

For you will not abandon me | to the grave,*nor let your holy one | see the pit.
YOU WILL SHOW ME THE | PATH OF LIFE;*IN YOUR PRESENCE THERE IS FULLNESS OF JOY,
AND IN YOUR RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOR- | EVERMORE.

LET US PRAY: GOD AND FATHER OF ALL THE FAITHFUL, 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 Fourth Reading Israel's Deliverance

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

The Canticle

"Cantemus Domino" (*Sung to Tone No. 3*)

I WILL SING TO THE LORD FOR HE HAS | TRIUMPHED GLORIOUSLY;*
THE HORSE AND ITS RIDER HE HAS THROWN IN- | TO THE SEA.

The Lord is my strength | and my song;*he has | been my Savior.

THIS IS MY GOD, AND | I WILL PRAISE HIM,*MY FATHER'S GOD, AND I | WILL EXALT HIM.

Your right hand, O Lord, glo- | rious in power,*
your right hand, O Lord, shat- | ters the enemy.

WHO AMONG THE GODS IS LIKE | YOU, O LORD?*

WHO IS LIKE YOU, MAJESTIC IN HOLINESS, AWESOME IN SPLENDOR, | DOING WONDERS?

In your mercy you led forth the people | you set free;*

you guided them in your strength to your holy | habitation.

YOU WILL BRING THEM | IN AND PLANT THEM*

ON THE MOUNT THAT IS | YOUR POSSESSION,

The place, O Lord, you have made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands | have prepared.*The Lord shall reign forev- | er and ever.

LET US PRAY: O GOD, WHOSE WONDERFUL DEEDS OF OLD SHINE FORTH EVEN TO OUR 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 THE 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.

The Fifth Reading Salvation Offered Freely to All

Isaiah 55:1-11

The Response from Isaiah 12 (*Sung to Tone No. 3*)

SURELY GOD IS | MY SALVATION;*I WILL TRUST, AND WILL NOT | BE AFRAID,

for the LORD God is my strength | and my might;*he has become | my salvation.

WITH JOY YOU | WILL DRAW WATER*FROM THE WELLS | OF SALVATION.

And you will say | in that day:*Give thanks to the LORD, call | on his name;

MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS A- | MONG THE NATIONS; *

PROCLAIM THAT HIS NAME | IS EXALTED.

**Sing praises to the LORD, for he | has done gloriously; *
let this be known in | all the earth.**

SHOUT ALOUD AND SING FOR JOY, O | ROYAL ZION, *
FOR GREAT IN YOUR MIDST IS THE HOLY | ONE OF ISRAEL.

LET US PRAY: O GOD, YOU HAVE CREATED ALL THINGS BY THE POWER OF YOUR WORD,
AND YOU RENEW THE EARTH BY YOUR SPIRIT. GIVE NOW THE WATER OF LIFE TO THOSE
WHO THIRST FOR YOU, THAT THEY MAY BRING FORTH ABUNDANT FRUIT IN YOUR
GLORIOUS KINGDOM; THROUGH YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Amen.

The Sixth Reading The Wisdom of God

Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6

The Response from Psalm 19 (*Sung to Tone No. 3*)

THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLO- | RY OF GOD,*
AND THE FIRMAMENT | SHOWS HIS HANDIWORK.

One day tells its tale | to another,*and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NO | WORDS OR LANGUAGE,*
AND THEIR VOICES | ARE NOT HEARD,

**their sound has gone out in- | to all lands,*
and their message to the ends | of the world.**

THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT AND RE- | VIVES THE SOUL;*
THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD IS SURE AND GIVES WISDOM | TO THE INNOCENT.

**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS CLEAN AND EN- | DURES FOREVER;*
THE JUDGMENTS OF THE LORD ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS | ALTOGETHER.

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,*
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

BY THEM ALSO IS YOUR SER- | VANT ENLIGHTENED,*
AND IN KEEPING THEM THERE IS | GREAT REWARD.

Who can tell how often | he offends? * Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

ABOVE ALL, KEEP YOUR SERVANT FROM PRESUMPTUOUS SINS; LET THEM NOT GET
DOMINION | OVER ME;*THEN SHALL I BE WHOLE AND SOUND, AND INNOCENT OF A | GREAT
OFFENSE.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your
sight,*O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

LET US PRAY: O GOD, YOU INCREASE YOUR CHURCH BY CONTINUING TO CALL ALL PEOPLES
TO SALVATION. LET THE CLEANSING WATERS OF BAPTISM FLOW, AND BY YOUR LOVE
WATCH OVER THOSE WHOM YOU HAVE CALLED; THROUGH YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR
LORD.

Amen.

The Seventh Reading Valley of the Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Response from Psalm 42 (*Sung to Tone No. 3*)

AS THE DEER LONGS | FOR THE WATER-BROOKS,*SO LONGS MY SOUL FOR | YOU, O GOD.

**My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the | living God;*
when shall I come to appear before the pres- | ence of God?**

MY TEARS HAVE BEEN MY FOOD | DAY AND NIGHT,*
WHILE ALL DAY LONG THEY SAY TO ME, "WHERE NOW | IS YOUR GOD?"

I pour out my soul when I think | on these things;*

how I went with the multitude and led them into the | house of God,

WITH THE VOICE OF PRAISE | AND THANKSGIVING,*
AMONG THOSE | WHO KEEP HOLY-DAY.

Why are you so full of heaviness, | O my soul?*

And why are you so disquiet- | ed within me?

PUT YOUR | TRUST IN GOD;* FOR I WILL YET GIVE THANKS TO HIM, WHO IS THE HELP OF MY
COUNTEenance | AND MY GOD.

LET US PRAY: O GOD, BY THE PASSOVER OF THE SON YOU HAVE BROUGHT US OUT OF SIN
INTO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE. GIVE US SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING
OF YOUR MERCY THAT, IN RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT NOW WE MAY
LEARN TO HOPE FOR ALL YOUR GIFTS TO COME; THROUGH YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR
LORD.

Amen.

The Eighth Reading: The Gathering of God's People

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The Response *from* Psalm 98 (*Sung to Tone No. 3*)

SING TO THE LORD | A NEW SONG,* FOR HE HAS DONE | MARVELOUS THINGS.

With his right hand and his | holy arm* has he won for him- | self the victory.

THE LORD HAS MADE | KNOWN HIS VICTORY;*

HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS HE OPENLY SHOWN IN THE SIGHT | OF THE NATIONS.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,*

and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

SHOUT WITH JOY TO THE LORD, | ALL YOU LANDS;*

LIFT UP YOUR VOICE, RE- | JOICE, AND SING.

Sing to the LORD | with the harp,* with the harp and the | voice of song.

WITH TRUMPETS AND THE SOUND | OF THE HORN*

SHOUT WITH JOY BEFORE THE | KING, THE LORD.

Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,*

the lands and those who | dwell therein.

LET THE RIVERS | CLAP THEIR HANDS,* AND LET THE HILLS RING OUT WITH JOY BEFORE THE
LORD, WHEN HE COMES TO | JUDGE THE EARTH.

In righteousness shall he | judge the world* and the peo | ples with equity.

LET US PRAY: O GOD, STRENGTH OF THE POWERLESS AND LIGHT IN ALL DARKNESS: LOOK IN
MERCY UPON YOUR CHURCH, THAT WONDERFUL AND SACRED MYSTERY. BRING TO
COMPLETION YOUR WORK OF SALVATION; LET THE WHOLE WORLD EXPERIENCE AND SEE
THAT WHAT WAS FALLEN IS BEING RAISED UP, THAT WHAT WAS OLD IS BEING MADE NEW,
AND THAT ALL THINGS ARE BEING RESTORED TO WHOLENESS THROUGH HIM FROM WHOM
THEY FIRST TOOK BEING, YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Amen.

The Ninth Reading The Deliverance of Jonah

Jonah 3:1-10

The Response Jonah 2:2-9 (*Sung to Tone No. 3*)

I CALLED TO THE LORD OUT OF MY DISTRESS, AND HE | ANSWERED ME:*

OUT OF THE BELLY OF SHEOL I CRIED, AND YOU | HEARD MY VOICE.

You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood sur | rounded me;*all your waves and your billows passed | over me.

THEN I SAID, I AM DRIVEN AWAY | FROM YOUR SIGHT;*
HOW SHALL I LOOK AGAIN UPON YOUR | HOLY TEMPLE?'

**The waters closed in over me; the deep sur- | rounded me;*
weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots | of the mountains.**

I WENT DOWN TO THE LAND WHOSE BARS CLOSED UPON | ME FOREVER;*
YET YOU BROUGHT UP MY LIFE FROM THE PIT, O | LORD MY GOD.]

**As my life was ebbing away, I remem- | bered the LORD;*
and my prayer came to you, into your | holy temple.**

THOSE WHO WOR- | SHIP VAIN IDOLS * FORSAKE | THEIR TRUE LOYALTY.

**But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacri | fice to you; *
what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs | to the LORD!**

LET US PRAY: O GOD, YOU HAVE UNITED ALL NATIONS IN THE CONFESSION OF YOUR NAME. NOW GIVE US THE WILL AND THE POWER TO DO WHAT YOU COMMAND, THAT THE FAITH OF THE PEOPLE WHOM YOU CALL TO EVERLASTING LIFE MAY DIRECT THEIR SPEECH AND ACTIONS; THROUGH YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Amen.

The Tenth Reading The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-29

The Response Song of the Three Young Men 35-65 (Sung to Tone No.3)

ALL YOU WORKS OF THE LORD, | BLESS THE LORD*
PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord;*you heavens, | bless the Lord;
ALL YOU POWERS OF THE LORD, | BLESS THE LORD*
PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

You sun and moon, | bless the Lord;*you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord;
YOU SHOWERS AND DEW, | BLESS THE LORD*PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

You winds of God, | bless the Lord;*you fire and heat, | bless the Lord;
YOU WINTER AND SUMMER, | BLESS THE LORD*
PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

You dews and frost, | bless the Lord;*you frost and cold, | bless the Lord;
YOU ICE AND SNOW, | BLESS THE LORD*PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

You nights and days, | bless the Lord;* you light and darkness, | bless the Lord;
YOU LIGHTNINGS AND CLOUDS, | BLESS THE LORD*
PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

Let the earth | bless the Lord:* you mountains and hills, | bless the Lord;
ALL YOU GREEN THINGS THAT GROW ON THE EARTH, | BLESS THE LORD*
PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

You wells and springs, | bless the Lord;*you rivers and seas, | bless the Lord;
YOU WHALES AND ALL WHO MOVE IN THE WATERS, | BLESS THE LORD*
PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

All you birds of the air, | bless the Lord;* all you beasts and cattle, | bless the Lord;
ALL YOU CHILDREN OF MORTALS, | BLESS THE LORD*
PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

You people of God, | bless the Lord;* you priests of the Lord, | bless the Lord;
YOU SERVANTS OF THE LORD, | BLESS THE LORD*

PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

**You spirits and souls of the righteous, | bless the Lord: *
you pure and humble of heart, | bless the Lord;**

LET US BLESS THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE | HOLY SPIRIT*

PRAISE AND MAGNIFY THE | LORD FOREVER.

~The Affirmation of Baptism~

* IN BAPTISM WE ARE MYSTERIOUSLY BURIED WITH CHRIST INTO HIS DEATH, AND RAISED WITH HIM TO NEWNESS OF LIFE. I CALL UPON YOU, THEREFORE, NOW THAT OUR LENTEN OBSERVANCE IS ENDED, TO RENEW THE SOLEMN PROMISES AND VOWS OF HOLY BAPTISM, BY WHICH WE ONCE RENOUNCED SATAN AND ALL HIS WORKS, AND PROMISED TO SERVE GOD FAITHFULL IN HIS HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH.

I ASK YOU TO PROFESS YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS, REJECT SIN, AND CONFESS THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH, THE FAITH IN WHICH WE BAPTIZE.

DO YOU RENOUNCE ALL THE FORCES OF EVIL, THE DEVIL, AND ALL HIS EMPTY PROMISES?

I do.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER?

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

YOU HAVE MADE PUBLIC PROFESSION OF YOUR FAITH. DO YOU INTEND TO CONTINUE IN THE COVENANT GOD MADE WITH YOU IN HOLY BAPTISM: TO LIVE AMONG GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE, TO HEAR HIS WORD AND SHARE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER, TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD IN CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND DEED, TO SERVE ALL PEOPLE, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS, AND TO STRIVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN ALL THE EARTH?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

PEOPLE OF GOD, DO YOU PROMISE TO SUPPORT AND PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER IN YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

LET US PRAY. WE GIVE THANKS, O GOD, THAT THROUGH WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU GIVE US NEW BIRTH, CLEANSE US FROM SIN, AND RAISE US TO ETERNAL LIFE. STIR UP IN YOUR PEOPLE THE GIFT OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT: THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND MIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD, THE SPIRIT OF JOY IN YOUR PRESENCE, BOTH NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

The congregation is seated and sprinkled as a reminder of Baptism.

~The Last Litany of Lent~

(Please kneel)

LORD, HAVE MERCY.

Lord, have mercy.

CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

Christ, have mercy.

LORD, HAVE MERCY.

Lord, have mercy.

BE GRACIOUS TO US.

Hear us, O God.

DELIVER YOUR PEOPLE.

Hear us, O God.

YOU LOVED US BEFORE THE WORLD WAS MADE:

Hear us, O God.

YOU RESCUED THE PEOPLE OF YOUR PROMISE:

Hear us, O God.

YOU SPOKE THROUGH YOUR PROPHETS:

Hear us, O God.

YOU GAVE YOUR ONLY SON FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD:

Hear us, O God.

FOR US AND FOR OUR SALVATION HE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN:

Great is your love.

AND WAS BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY:

Great is your love.

WHO BY HIS CROSS AND SUFFERING HAS REDEEMED THE WORLD:

Great is your love.

AND HAS WASHED US FROM OUR SINS:

Great is your love.

WHO ON THE THIRD DAY ROSE FROM THE DEAD:

Great is your love.

AND HAS GIVEN US THE VICTORY:

Great is your love.

WHO ASCENDED ON HIGH:

Great is your love.

AND INTERCEDES FOR US AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD:

Great is your love.

FOR THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Thanks be to God.

FOR THE ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH:

Thanks be to God.

FOR THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES INTO WHICH WE ARE BAPTIZED:

Thanks be to God.

FOR SARAH AND ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND REBEKAH:

Thanks be to God.

FOR GIDEON AND DEBORAH, DAVID AND ESTHER:

Thanks be to God.

FOR MOSES AND ISAIAH, JEREMIAH AND DANIEL:

Thanks be to God.

FOR MIRIAM AND RAHAB, ABIGAIL AND RUTH:

Thanks be to God.

FOR MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD:

Thanks be to God.

FOR JOHN, WHO BAPTIZED IN THE JORDAN:

Thanks be to God.

FOR MARY MAGDALENE AND JOANNA, MARY AND MARTHA:

Thanks be to God.

FOR JAMES AND JOHN, PETER AND ANDREW:

Thanks be to God.

FOR PAUL AND APOLLOS, STEPHEN AND PHOEBE:

Thanks be to God.

Using the words printed in the bulletin, all responses will be sung with these notes:

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is written on the treble clef staff, and the bass line is on the bass clef staff. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter) on the treble staff; and G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter) on the bass staff. The lyrics 'Lord, have mercy.' are written below the treble staff, with a square note symbol above the 'L'.

FOR ALL HOLY MEN AND WOMEN, OUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS IN FAITH:

Thanks be to God.

FOR THE NOBLE BAND OF THE PROPHETS:

Thanks be to God.

FOR THE GLORIOUS COMPANY OF THE APOSTLES:

Thanks be to God.

FOR THE WHITE-ROBED ARMY OF MARTYRS:

Thanks be to God.

FOR THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM, MICHAEL AND THE HOLY ANGELS:

Thanks be to God.

BE GRACIOUS TO US:

Hear us, O God.

DELIVER YOUR PEOPLE:

Hear us, O God.

GIVE NEW LIFE TO THESE CHOSEN ONES BY THE GRACE OF BAPTISM:

Hear us, O God.

STRENGTHEN ALL WHO BEAR THE SIGN OF THE CROSS:

Hear us, O God.

CLOTHE US IN COMPASSION AND LOVE:

Hear us, O God.

BRING US WITH ALL YOUR SAINTS TO THE RIVER OF LIFE:

Hear us, O God.

LORD, HAVE MERCY.

Lord, have mercy.

CHRIST, HAVE MERCY.

Christ, have mercy.

LORD, HAVE MERCY.

Lord, have mercy.

[Please stand as we sing the Hymn of Praise]

~The First Liturgy of Easter~

* **The Hymn of Praise**

“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen”

WOV No. 674, *See Insert*

The Salutation and Prayer of the Day

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) **And also with you.**

LET US PRAY:

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~The Word ~

The New Testament Reading Romans 6:3-11

We were incorporated into the death of Jesus Christ in baptism and so were liberated from the dominion of sin. We also anticipate that we will be incorporated into the resurrection of Christ and so will be liberated from the hold death has over our mortal bodies.

A Reading from Romans

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

Thanks be to God.

* The Gospel Acclamation (*Alleluia Verse Now the Feast*)

**Alleluia, Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

* The Holy Gospel St. John 20:1-18

This morning begins with confusion: the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN THE 20TH CHAPTER

(Spoken) Glory to You, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.

(Spoken) Praise to You, O Christ.

*** The Hymn of the Day**

“This Joyful Eastertide”

No. 149, *See Insert*

*** The Prayers of Intercession**

HOLY GOD, WE COME TO YOU IN PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH, YOUR GOOD CREATION, AND ALL WHO ARE IN NEED.

A brief silence.

YOU UNITE ALL THE BAPTIZED IN THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS. EMPOWER THE CHURCH TO PROCLAIM YOUR REDEEMING LOVE FOR ALL THE WORLD, AND BLESS ALL WHO ARE NEWLY WELCOMED INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

IN THE BEGINNING, YOU BREATHED LIFE INTO THE WORLD. FILL YOUR CREATION WITH THE SPIRIT OF LIFE, THAT ALL THE WATERS AND DRY LANDS, ALL THE VEGETATION AND CREATURES OF AIR, SEA, AND LAND MIGHT FLOURISH. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

YOU DELIVERED YOUR PEOPLE FROM SLAVERY INTO FREEDOM. RELEASE ALL WHO ARE BOUND BY UNJUST SYSTEMS; TRANSFORM THE EVILS OF WHITE SUPREMACY, PATRIARCHY, AND ALL FORMS OF OPPRESSION, THAT EVERY PERSON FLOURISHES IN WHOLENESS AND NEW LIFE. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

YOU CALL TO THE WATERS ALL WHO THIRST. HEAR THE CRIES OF YOUR PEOPLE, COMFORT THOSE WHO WEEP, CONSOLE ALL WHO GRIEVE, AND BRING HEALING TO ALL WHO SUFFER IN BODY, MIND, OR SPIRIT. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

YOU DELIGHT IN THE GENERATIONS. BLESS CHILDREN AND ELDERS ALIKE AS THEY DISCOVER THE CENTRAL STORIES OF OUR FAITH, AND ENERGIZE STORYTELLERS IN THEIR SHARING IN WORSHIP AND AT HOME. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

YOU WELCOME YOUR SAINTS TO ETERNAL REST AT YOUR SIDE. WE SING IN THANKSGIVING FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED AND ENTRUST THEM TO YOUR CARE, UNTIL WE JOIN THEM IN THE LIFE EVERLASTING. GOD OF GRACE,

hear our prayer.

WE COMMEND THESE AND ALL OUR PRAYERS TO YOU, O GOD, TRUSTING THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS WITH US; IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR RISEN SAVIOR.

Amen.

*** The Peace**

THE PEACE OF THE RISEN CHRIST BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

And also with you.

The Offering and Offertory

*** The Offertory Procession “As the Grains of Wheat”** *(Now the Feast)*

(Refrain) **As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill**

were gathered into one to become our bread;

so may all your people from all the

ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

**As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *(Refrain)***

* **The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: RISEN ONE, YOU HAVE GATHERED US AROUND YOUR TABLE OF GRACE ALONG WITH THESE GIFTS WE BRING. COME AMONG US AGAIN, BREATHE YOUR LIFE INTO US, AND ENLIVEN US WITH THIS MEAL, THAT WE MAY LIVE AS YOUR RISEN BODY IN THE WORLD.

Amen.

~The Meal~

* **The Great Thanksgiving**

* **The Preface and Sanctus**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) **And also with you.**

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

We lift them to the Lord.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

IT IS OUR DUTY.....THEIR UNENDING HYMN: *(Now the Feast)*

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!**

* **The Eucharistic Prayer** *(Now the Feast)*

YOU ARE INDEED HOLY, ...WE PRAY FOR HIS COMING AGAIN EVEN AS WE CRY.

AMEN. COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN. COME, LORD JESUS.

(Sung) **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

SEND NOW, WE PRAY, YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, THAT ALL OF YOUR PROMISES MAY COME TO US AND YOUR CREATION.

AMEN. COME, HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN. COME, HOLY SPIRIT.

(Sung) **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

THIS WE PRAY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND OUR FRIEND.

(Sung) **Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.**

* **The Lord's Prayer**

MAKE US BOLD, O MERCIFUL GOD, TO ADDRESS YOU AS OUR ABBA AS WE PRAY:

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 Invitation to the Holy Meal**

COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE. RECEIVE THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE..

* **The Agnus Dei** "*Lamb of God*" *(Now the Feast)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

**have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*** The Distribution**

All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to commune when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Parents are invited to bring their children to the altar for a blessing. Zion members, please complete a Communion card once a year for our records.

*** The Post-Communion Blessing**

MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND THE GIFTS OF HIS BODY AND BLOOD STRENGTHEN, KEEP AND UNITE, NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

*** The Post-Communion Canticle** (*"Thanks Be to You" - Now the Feast*)

**Praise to you, O God of mercy! Thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly; Thanks be to you forever!
From of old you loved and sought us! Thanks be to you forever!
Truth and justice you have taught us; Thanks be to you forever!
Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,
Rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.
Praise to you, O God of mercy! Thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly; Thanks be to you forever! Thanks be to you forever!**

*** The Post Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY; LIVING ONE, IN THIS FEAST YOU HAVE MADE YOURSELF KNOWN TO US. SEND US NOW TO TELL OF YOUR WONDERS, SING OF YOUR GLORY, AND PROCLAIM YOUR RISEN LIFE TO A WOUNDED AND WEARY WORLD.

Amen.

~The Sending~

*** The Blessing**

THE TRIUNE GOD, WHO WAS, WHO IS, AND WHO IS TO COME, SOVEREIGN, ✚ SAVIOR, AND SPIRIT, LIGHT YOUR WAY WITH RESURRECTION DAWN, NOW AND ALWAYS.

(Sung) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

*** The Sending**

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

GO IN PEACE. IN CHRIST YOU ARE MADE NEW. ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*** The Sending Hymn**

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

No. 151, *See Insert*

A word of thanks to all who share in the leadership of our Vigil; Our thanks and gratitude also to our parish staff who share in our expanded worship ministry during Lent and Holy Week. Our Easter Morning Service a Celebration of Christ's Resurrection is tomorrow at 9:00 am with Holy Communion.