# Historic Zion Lutheran Church THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

7:00 pm ...... Saturday, April 19, 2025

The Great Vigil of Easter comes to us from the earliest celebration in the Church of the death and resurrection of our Lord, known as "Pascha." When this celebration began to be spread over several days, the Vigil of Easter was conducted as a watch through the night for signs of the rising dawn. Traditionally the service would start at such a time as to allow the Service of Holy Communion to occur after midnight. Also, the rubrics called for the service to begin outside of the Church, preferably around a fire, from which the congregation lights candles and processes into the nave. For obvious reasons, we will conduct the candlelighting a bit differently, as noted in the Order of Service below.

The Great Vigil of Easter is comprised of six services: the Service of Light, the Service of Readings, the Service of Baptism and Confirmation, the Service of Prayer, the Service of the Word, and the Service of Holy Communion. These are unified under the theme of the resurrection of our Lord and the restoration of creation in his new Kingdom. The viail begins in silence and darkness.

#### + The Service of Light +

[ The congregation gathers in the Great Hall for the Service of Light. ]

*In the name of the Father and of the* + *Son and of the Holy Spirit.* ...... Amen!

Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.

#### [ The fire is kindled, as the pastor says: ]

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. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever...... Amen!

[The celebrant traces the cross and letters Alpha and Omega upon it, saying:]

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

[He traces the year upon the candle, saying:]

*His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.* 

[ He traces the five nails painted on the candle, saying: ]

By his wounds we have healing both now and forever.

[The congregation rises; the paschal candle is lighted, as the pastor says:]

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

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. ..... Amen!

[ The service participants light their candles from the paschal candle. They distribute the light to congregation members who, in turn, pass the light to others around them until all candles are lighted.]

[ The procession begins. As the procession enters the nave, the candle-bearer chants and congrega-

tion responds, using the same chant-notes: ]



Thanks be to God!

[ This occurs twice more in the procession on progressively higher notes. ]

#### The Easter Proclamation ("Exsultet")

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.

The Lord be with you.

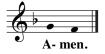


Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood. This is the night when You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. 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 is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast. How blessed is the night 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.



[ The paschal candle is placed in its stand; the hand-held candles are extinguished; the congregation is seated; and the nave lights are turned to dawn. ]

#### + The Service of Readings +

In this most holy night our Savior, Christ, the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His Word. The Sun of Righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

[ Each reading is followed by: "This is the Word of the Lord"; "Thanks be to God" and by prayer. ]

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The Creation		Genesis 1:1–2:2
The Flood		Genesis 7:1-5; 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13
The Testing of Abraham		Genesis 22:1-18
Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea		Exodus 14:10–15:1
The Valley of Dry Bones		Ezekiel 37:1-14
Jonah Preaches to Nineveh		Jonah 3:1-10
The Fiery Furnace .		Daniel 3:1-30

Hymn .......Burgundy Hymn 931 [ Pastor moves to the baptismal font as the canticle is chanted. The congregation stands. Leader introduces the Refrain first and then chants the verses; the congregation sings the Refrain. ]

#### + The Service of Holy Baptism +

On this holiest of nights the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead.

The apostle Paul says: "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 like this 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" (Romans 6:3-11).

#### [ The congregation stands for prayer and confession. ]

Do you renounce the devil?	. I do renounce him!
and all his works?	I do renounce them!
and all his ways?	I do renounce them!

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

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.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you th	he new birth
of water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen y	ou with His
grace to life 🕂 everlasting	Amen!
Peace $+$ be with you	Amen!

[ Be Seated ]

Hymn ...... All Who Believe and Are Baptized...... Burgundy Hymn 601

#### + The Service of Prayer +

[ The congregation kneels for prayer. ]

#### Litany of the Resurrection

O Lord, have mercy. O Christ, have mercy.

O Lord, have mercy. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, hear us. Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification, have mercy on us. Who foretold Your Passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again," have mercy on us. Who destroyed Death by dying, and by rising to life again have brought life and immortality to light, have mercy on us. By Your glorious resurrection from the dead, good Lord, deliver us. By Your victory over sin and death, good Lord, deliver us. By the majesty of Your risen body, good Lord, deliver us. We poor sinners implore You, to hear us, Lord Jesus. That we may daily die and rise with You in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of Your forgiveness, grant us, good Lord. That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by You, grant us, good Lord. That we may dwell with You forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints, grant us, good Lord. Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. *Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,* have mercy on us. Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. O Lord. have mercy. O Christ, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy. Amen. + The Service of the Word + Easter Acclamation 0 O Christ is risen. Al-le-lu-ia! He is risen in- deed! Alleluia! Al- le- lu- ia! [ Be Seated ] Hymn ...... The Strife is O'er, the Battle ...... Burgundy Hymn 464 [ The bells ring out; all of the lights are turned on, and the aisle and altar candles are lighted during the singing of the hymn. ] [ Rise ] Salutation The Lord be with you. And with thy spir— it. + Page 4 +

**Collect for the Great Vigil of Easter:** Let us pray: O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Holy Gospel ..... St. Mark 16:1-8



<sup>[</sup> The congregation is seated after the cross is returned to its place. ]

Sermon

Offering

Voluntary

# + The Service of Holy Communion +

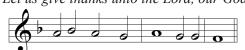
#### Please note our Communion Attendance Policy:

Our congregation is a member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a family of congregations who pledge themselves to believe, confess and practice the same doctrine. With the historic Christian Church since her earliest days, we believe that we are given a great responsibility to commune only those persons who are communicant members of our congregation, or of a sister congregation which is committed to the same doctrine. Members of such sister congregations should announce to our pastor their desire to receive the sacrament with us.

To other guests with us this day, we express to you our sincere interest, friendship, and concern for you. We assure you that it is for the spiritual welfare of all that we practice "closed communion." You may come forward, crossing your arms over your chest, to receive a blessing. Those desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to speak with our pastor.

#### [ Rise ] Preface





It is meet and right so to do.

# Proper Preface for Easter, Sanctus

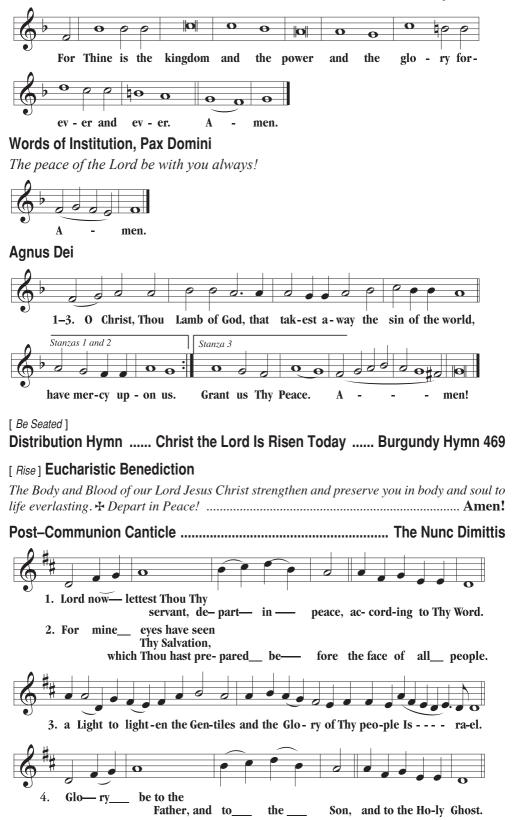






#### [Remain standing ] Lord's Prayer

[Pastor chants:] Our Father who art in heaven; ..... but deliver us from evil.





## **Post Communion Rite**

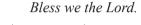
Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



**Prayer of Thanksgiving** ... now and forever.



The Lord be with you.





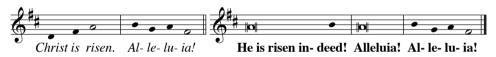
Thanks be to God.

#### Benediction

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.



#### **Easter Acclamation**



[During the Recessional, the Congregation turns and faces the Processional Cross, the symbol of Christ's promise to remain with and lead His people as they now go and live in the world in His name.]

Recessional Hymn ....... Come, You Faithful, Raise ....... Burgundy Hymn 487

# Tomorrow is Easter, The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Breakfast 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Festival Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

#### (No Sunday School and Adult Bible Class tomorrow. Bible Classes begin again next Sunday. An Easter Egg Hunt will be held for children grade 2 and younger.)

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#### **Gospel for the Great Vigil of Easter**

#### The Gospel is St. Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

# Hymns for the Great Vigil of Easter

#### LSB931 All You Works of the Lord

Song of the Three Young Men

Refrain: Praise\_\_\_ Him and mag- ni- fy Him for- ev- er.

- All you works of the Lord, | bless the Lord— || praise Him and magnify Him for- | ev-\_\_\_ er. || You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord: || *Refrain*
- 2. You heavens, | bless the Lord; || all you waters above the heavens, | bless the Lord; || all you powers of the Lord, | bless the Lord: || *Refrain*
- 3. You sun and moon, | bless the Lord; || you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord; || all you showers and dew, | bless the Lord: || *Refrain*
- 4. All you winds of God, | bless the Lord; || you fire and heat, | bless the Lord; || you winter and summer, | bless the Lord: || *Refrain*
- 5. You dews and frost, | bless the Lord; || you frost and cold, | bless the Lord; || you ice and snow, | bless the Lord: || *Refrain*
- 6. You nights and days, | bless the Lord; || you light and darkness, | bless the Lord; || you lightnings and clouds, | bless the Lord: || *Refrain*
- 7. 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: || *Refrain*
- 8. 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: || *Refrain*
- 9. All you birds of the air, | bless the Lord; || all you beasts and cattle, | bless the Lord; || all you children of men, | bless the Lord: || *Refrain*
- 10. O Israel, | bless the Lord; || you priests of the Lord, | bless the Lord; || you servants of the Lord, | bless the Lord: || *Refrain*
- 11. 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 | Spir-\_\_ it: || *Refrain*

# LSB601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized

- 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 will stand Among the glorious, heav'nly band Of every tribe and nation.
- 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.

# LSB464 The Strife Is O'er

Symphonia Sirenum Selectarum, Köln

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- The strife is o'er, the battle done; Now is the victor's triumph won; Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!
- The pow'rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their legions hath dispersed. Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!
- The three sad days have quickly sped, He rises glorious from the dead. All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!
- He broke the age-bound chains of hell; The bars from heav'n's high portals fell. Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!
- 5. Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death's dread sting Thy servants free That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## LSB459 Christ Is Arisen

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- Christ is arisen From the grave's dark prison. So let our joy rise full and free; Christ our comfort true will be. Alleluia!
- 2. Were Christ not arisen, Then death were still our prison. Now, with Him to life restored, We praise the Father as our Lord. Alleluia!
- 3. Alleluia, alleluia! Now let our joy rise full and free; Christ our comfort true will be. Alleluia!

## LSB469 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

**Charles Wesley** 

- 1. "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!" Saints on earth and angels say; Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply.
- 2. Love's redeeming work is done, Fought the fight, the battle won; Lo! Our Sun's eclipse is o'er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.
- 3. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell. Death in vain forbids His rise; Christ has opened Paradise.
- 4. Lives again our glorious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Once He died our souls to save; Where thy victory, O grave?
- 5. Soar we now where Christ has led; Foll'wing our exalted Head. Made like Him, like Him we rise; Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
- 6. Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n! Praise to Thee by both be giv'n! Thee we greet triumphant now: Hail, the Resurrection Thou!.

## LSB487 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain John of Damascus

- Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness! God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness. Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters, Led them with unmoistened foot Through the Red Sea waters.
- 'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ hath burst His prison, And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has risen; All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise undying.

- 3. Now the queen of seasons, bright With the day of splendor, With the royal feast of feasts, Comes its joy to render; Comes to gladden faithful hearts Which with true affection Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!
- 4. For today among His own Christ appeared, bestowing His deep peace, which evermore Passes human knowing. Neither could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark portal Nor the watchers nor the seal Hold Him as a mortal.
- 5. Alleluia! Now we cry To our King immortal, Who, triumphant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark portal. Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness! God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness!



# What Doctor Luther Says:

About the Promise to the Ninevites for Their Faith It is ... remarkable that [the Ninevites] do not despair in their fear

and fright, though they have no promise of mercy. My dear man, what mainstay do they have to hold despair off? We have so many prophets, so many apostles, so many writings, so many books, pastors, and comforting words, and yet we do not trust in God aright. The plenitude of our possession of God's Word might be called an ocean over against the little drop which they had. For they could not have heard more of God's Word than the news that He is the Creator of heaven and earth, that He is the true God, that is, that He is gracious and merciful. This little fragment of information they use to such good advantage for their salvation that they put both Jews and Christians to shame. These do not utilize their superfluity of God's Word half as well. For that reason Christ cites their example for the Jews and all of us in Matt. 12:41, saying: "The men of Nineveh will arise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here." And that remonstrance is very fair, for we do not show one half the zeal, though we are admonished with so many thousands of threats and promises; and the people of Nineveh demonstrate such a rich faith, though they are frightened by only a single word of threat and though they are without the solace of one word of promise. But that's the way it goes: Where the Word of God grows sparsely, there the hunger for it and the earnestness with which it is sought are strong; but where it flourishes abundantly, there a satiety and a disdain for it are found. Luther's Works, 19:89-90.





Dedícations

Given in loving memory of Carl & Myrtle Albersmeyer and Byrle & Joyce Greenamyer by Carl & Rosie Albersmeyer

Given in loving memory of Don Allen and Berniece Allen by Bruce Allen

Given in loving memory of Elizabeth Hope Bahr by Michael & Amber Bahr

Given in loving memory of Bill Bengs and Adeline & Walter Bengs by ClarAnn Bengs

Given in loving memory of Billy Stabler, Allen Thomas, Robert Thomas, and Christopher Bass by Babi Beyer

> Given in loving memory of Paul & Esther Bieberich and David & Agnes Shutt by Don & Beth Bieberich

Our Risen Lord & Savior Mike & Rita Davies

Given in loving memory of my mother Virginia Hollman and my grandmothers Hulda Sonne & Alma Hollman by Beth Hollman

> Gíven ín loving memory of Vírgínia Hollman, my beloved wife by Ríchard Hollman

Gíven in loving memory of Georianna & Walter Ostermeyer with thankfulness from their children Karen, Kim, David, and Kirk I know that my Redeemer lives!

> Given in loving memory of Rudolph & Amelia Sommers, my grandparents by Julie Ganaway

Given in loving memory of our mother & Baba Shirley Goeglein and in honor if our father Dedo Stanley Goeglein Christ has Risen! by Jenny, Tim, Paul and Tim Goeglein

Gíven in loving memory of Alma Jackson, Alonzo & Ora Edmonds, and Gerald & Amanda Stewart by Frank & Alanza Jackson

Stephanie & Jeff Brooks' 28th wedding anniversary by Dave & Janeen Kaiser

Gíven in loving memory of Spiro & Anne Kostoff and Karen Kostoff Wood By their family

> "Christ is Risen" by Rev. George & Lois Lange

Given in loving memory of Dr. Robert & Katherine Leininger and Fred, Betty, Teresa, & John Beckman by Kevin & Maribeth Leininger

Given in loving memory of Willie Manning & Betty Terlosky By Rose Manning Given in loving memory of Robert & Loretta Manth, Albert & Caroline Manth, Ferdinand & Henrietta Bornkamp, and Mrs. Clara Tegtmeyer by Jennifer Manth

Christ is risen! "Death is swallowed up in victory!" by Pastor & Marge Punke

Gíven in loving memory of my parents Albert A. & Emma B. Dírks by Marílynn Shafter

> Gíven in loving memory of John W. Starks, Jr. by TruLaine Starks

Given in loving memory of Marcile Keck by her children Kristine, Peter, Philip, Jonathan, and Klare

> Given in loving memory of Roy & Coraine Voelz and Earl & Helene Hayes "Glory be to God" by Jim & Judy Voelz

> Given in loving memory of Bill Wallschlaeger by Carolyn Wallschlaeger

"He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!" by André Woodard

Gíven in loving memory of Margaret Traschel by Charlene Young

Given in loving memory of Manfred & Lore Ziegler by Roland & Anne Ziegler