

Welcome!

*This is
the night*

A hand holding a lit candle in a holder, with a bokeh background of warm lights.

*Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Easter Vigil*

***Our Mission:** Zion proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament as Gospel messengers in the community. We seek to be instruments through which God transforms lives and strengthens relationships within families and within our community of believers.*

Resurrection of Our Lord, Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 3, 2021 ~ 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 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 Third 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 Fourth 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 Fifth 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 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.

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.

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 First Hymn of Easter** *“This Joyful Eastertide”*
This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.

WOV No.676

(Refrain) **Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison, Our faith had been in vain.
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.**

**My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number. (Refrain)**

**Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. (Refrain)**

*** The Greeting**

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.

BELOVED PEOPLE OF GOD, 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.

*** 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** *(Christ Has Been Raised)*

Christ has been raised from the dead, alleluia.

Christ has been raised. Oh, God be praised!

Alleluia, alleluia, Christ the Lord has been raised.

*** 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

(Sung) 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.

(Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

The Meditation

Pastor Cindy White

*** The Hymn of the Day**

"The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done"

No.135

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 has 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!**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* **The Prayers of Intercession**

WASHED AND RENEWED IN THE MERCY OF GOD THAT ENDURES FOREVER, WE PRAY THIS NIGHT FOR THE CHURCH, THE WORLD, AND ALL CREATION.

A brief silence.

YOU BRING US FROM DEATH TO LIFE WITH CHRIST. FILL AND ENLIGHTEN THE NEWLY BAPTIZED; ENLIVEN ALL THE BAPTIZED SO THAT YOUR CHURCH MAY BE A SIGN OF RESURRECTION IN THE WORLD. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

AT CREATION YOU BROUGHT FORTH ORDER AND LIFE. BRING LIFE ANEW TO ALL CREATION: SKY, EARTH, AND SEAS; SUN, MOON, AND STARS; PLANTS AND ANIMALS. TEACH US TO TREASURE AND DEFEND WHAT YOU HAVE DECLARED TO BE GOOD. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

AS YOU DELIVERED YOUR PEOPLE, DELIVER ALL FROM BONDAGE. BRING AN END TO WAR AND BRUTALITY. RAISE UP LEADERS WHO LISTEN FOR WISDOM'S VOICE. CAUSE RIGHTEOUSNESS TO SPRING UP AMONG THE NATIONS. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

YOUR POWER EXTENDS TO THE DEPTHS OF THE GRAVE. BRING HOPE AND PEACE TO ALL WHO ARE IN THE DEPTHS OF SORROW OR THE FIRES OF SUFFERING. HEAL ALL WHO ARE SICK AND COMFORT THE GRIEVING. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

IN THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAWN JESUS' RESURRECTION WAS REVEALED. GUARD ALL WHO KEEP VIGIL IN THE NIGHT: TENDING TO THE SICK OR ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY, WORKING, OR WORRYING. AS THEY AWAIT THE MORNING, MAY HOPE DAWN UPON THEM. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

YOU DREW THE AMAZED, THE TERRIFIED, AND THE WEEPING TO THE EMPTY TOMB. GATHER US WITH YOUR PEOPLE OF ALL TIMES AND PLACES TO WONDER AT YOUR POWER AND REJOICE IN YOUR LOVE. HEAR US, O GOD.

Your mercy is great.

TO YOU, LIVING GOD, WE COMMEND OURSELVES AND ALL FOR WHOM WE PRAY, TRUSTING IN THE ONE WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN RAISED TO NEW LIFE, JESUS CHRIST OUR REDEEMER.

Amen.

* **The Peace**

THE PEACE OF THE RISEN CHRIST BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

And also with you.

The Offering and Offertory

Zion members, please use your envelopes for contributions so that your offering may be officially recorded. Please mail your envelopes to Zion Lutheran Church 101 N. Greenwood Street Tamaqua, PA 18252 or visit ziontamaqua.com for our myOffering option.

* **The Offertory Procession** Tune: *“Create In Me a Clean Heart”* ELW No. 185

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

*** The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: BLESSED ARE YOU, O GOD, RULER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. DAY BY DAY YOU SHOWER US WITH BLESSINGS. AS YOU HAVE RAISED US TO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST, GIVE US GLAD AND GENEROUS HEARTS, READY TO PRAISE YOU AND TO RESPOND TO THOSE IN NEED, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD.

Amen.

~The Meal~

*** The Preface and Sanctus** (*music on page 68 of LBW*)

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 him thanks and praise.

IT IS INDEED RIGHT.....THEIR UNENDING HYMN: (*ELW NO. 193*)

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:**

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

*** The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

HOLY GOD, MIGHTY LORD, GRACIOUS FATHER: ENDLESS IS YOUR MERCY AND ETERNAL REIGN...FOR AS OFTEN AS WE EAT OF THIS BREAD AND DRINK FROM THIS CUP, WE PROCLAIM THE LORD'S DEATH, UNTIL HE COMES.

Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

THEREFORE, GRACIOUS FATHER...THE GREAT AND PROMISED FEAST.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

SEND NOW, WE PRAY, YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD...WITH ALL THE SAINTS IN LIGHT.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

JOIN OUR PRAYERS WITH THOSE OF YOUR SERVANTS OF EVERY TIME AND EVERY PLACE, AND UNITE THEM WITH THE CEASELESS PETITIONS OF OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST UNTIL HE COMES AS VICTORIOUS LORD OF ALL.

(Sung) **Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,**

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

*** The Lord's Prayer**

JESUS, REMEMBER US IN YOUR KINGDOM; AND TEACH US TO 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 Supper**

THE RISEN CHRIST INVITES US TO THIS TABLE. COME, EAT AND BE SATISFIED.

* **The Agnus Dei** “*Lamb of God*” (ELW No. 195)

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

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; 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**

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST STRENGTHEN YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS GRACE.

Amen.

* **The Post Communion Canticle** (music on page 72 of LBW)

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev’ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* **The Post-Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY: WELLSPRING OF JOY, THROUGH THIS MEAL YOU HAVE PUT GLADNESS IN OUR HEARTS. SATISFY THE HUNGER STILL AROUND US, AND SEND US AS JOYFUL WITNESSES, THAT YOUR LOVE MAY BRING JOY TO THE HEARTS OF ALL PEOPLE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Amen.

~The Sending~

* **The Blessing**

MAY OUR GLORIOUS GOD GRANT YOU A SPIRIT OF WISDOM TO KNOW AND TO LOVE THE RISEN LORD JESUS. THE GOD OF LIFE, FATHER, ✚ SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT, BLESS YOU NOW AND FOREVER.

(Sung) **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

* **The Sending**

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

GO IN PEACE. SHARE THE GOOD NEWS. ALLELUIA!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

The Sending Hymn

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today! Alleluia!”

No.128

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
at the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
when contending death and life, Alleluia!
met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
all your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807-1882, alt.

~Participants~

Worship Leader: Pastor Cindy White
Organist: Sandy Mehalko
Cantor: Lucy Gerace
Lectors: Deb Davies & Michael Haspe

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.