

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ELCA  
The Great Vigil of Easter

April 11, 2020

Online Worship



## GATHERING

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### 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.**

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.

*If it has not been burning, the new fire is lighted. You may light a candle in your home or light a fire in your fireplace or fire pit.*

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### EASTER PROCLAMATION

*The presiding minister traces the inscription on the paschal candle. The Easter Proclamation is sung:*

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!  
Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;  
and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.  
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,  
radiant in the brightness of your king!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.  
Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!

Let this place resound with joy,  
echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice  
we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin.  
For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain,  
by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the night [**This is the night**]

in which, in ancient times,  
you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,  
and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.

This is the night [**This is the night**]

in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.

This is the night [**This is the night**]

in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin,  
are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.

This is the night [**This is the night**]

in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.

O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know  
the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell!

This is the night [**This is the night**]

of which it is written: "The night is as clear as the day,"  
and, "then shall my night be turned into day."

The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness;  
washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen,  
and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace;  
and humbles earthly pride.

Therefore, in this night of grace,  
receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving  
for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
reflected in the burning of this candle.

We sing the glories of this pillar of fire,  
the brightness of which is not diminished  
even when its light is divided and borrowed.

For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants,  
have made for the substance of this candle.

This is the night [**This is the night**]

in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O God,  
that this candle, burning to the honor of your name,  
will continue to vanquish the darkness of night  
and be mingled with the lights of heaven.  
May Christ the Morning Star find it burning,  
that Morning Star who never sets,  
that Morning Star who, rising from the grave,  
faithfully sheds light on the whole human race.

And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve  
with your continual protection your whole church,  
giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing;  
through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

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FIRST READING

*Creation*

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

FIRST PRAYER

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 the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

SECOND READING

*Deliverance at the Red Sea*

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

SECOND PRAYER

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***English Translation:***

Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,

call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,

and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

### THIRD PRAYER

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### FOURTH READING

*Valley of the Dry Bones*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

### FOURTH PRAYER

Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of word and sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### FIFTH READING

*Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace*

Daniel 3:1-29

### FIFTH PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### FIFTH READING

*Seeing the Risen Christ*

John 20:1-18

### HOMILY

### FIFTH READING

*“Now the Green Blade Rises”*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition ending, “Hear us, O God,” the assembly responds:*

**Your mercy is great.**

. . . According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# SENDING

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## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

### BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life  
fill you with great joy.

Almighty God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



**Southeastern Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

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