

# Easter Vigil

April 3, 2021



**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

[gracelutheranrialto.com](http://gracelutheranrialto.com)

Pastor Bill Maggard

Pastor Daniel A. Holm

*The congregation and pastor enter in silence.*

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

*Stand*

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.

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.**

*Pastor traces a cross on the paschal candle while saying:*

Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

*and then traces the Greek letters Alpha and Omega on the candle while saying:*

the Alpha and Omega.

*He traces the year on the candle, saying:*

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

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.**

*Candle bearer at entrance of the nave:*

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Candle bearer stops in the middle of the nave:*

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Candle bearer arrives at candle stand:*

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**It is meet and right so to do.**

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 the 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.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

## 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.

### **The Creation**

Genesis 1:1-2:3

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Flood**

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and perverse generation, and Yet you saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ's body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Testing of Abraham**

Genesis 22:1-18

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

O God, since You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea**

Exodus 14:10-15:1

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Salvation Offered Freely to All**

Isaiah 55:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your Word You created and sustain all things, and by Your Spirit You renew Your creation. Grant now the water of life to all who thirst for You that they may bring forth abundant fruit in Your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **A New Heart and a New Spirit**

Ezekiel 36:24-28

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son You cleansed our hearts and put a new Spirit within us. Grant that all who are brought to newness of life in the fellowship of the body of Christ may show forth in their lives what they confess with their lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **God's Faithfulness to Israel**

Deuteronomy 31:19-30

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

O God, the exaltation of the humble and the strength of the righteous, You taught Your people through Your holy servant Moses to sing Your sacred songs and delivered to them the Law that still directs us. Display in all nations the fullness of Your power that, as You blot out all sins through Your forgiveness, terror may turn to joy and fear of

punishment may be transformed into the hope of salvation;  
through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The Valley of Dry Bones**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam's children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Job Confesses the Redeemer**

Job 19:20-27

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our great Redeemer, in the sacrifice of Your Son You put to death our wretched flesh and in His rising restored our life. Grant that we may always cling to Christ by faith in this life that at the last we may rejoice to stand in our own flesh and see You face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Jonah Preaches to Nineveh**

Jonah 3:1-10



This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

O God, as the prophet Johan spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so Your Son Jesus spent three days in the heart of the earth. Grant us repentance to embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism and to proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The Gathering of God's People**

Zephaniah 3:12-20

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

Look in mercy, O Lord, upon Your faithful people, and by Word and Spirit bring to completion that good work which You have begun in us. Gather in Your people that all the world may see and know that what has been cast down is raised up and what has grown old is made new, until the work You have begun in us is brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**The Fiery Furnace**

Daniel 3:1-30

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray.

O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Stand*

## SERVICE OF 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 brought life and immortality to light,  
**have mercy on us.**

Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women.

**have mercy on us.**

Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,

**have mercy on us.**

Who revealed Yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made Yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,

**have mercy on us.**

Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,

**have mercy on us.**

Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,

**have mercy on us.**

Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,

**have mercy on us.**

Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,

**have mercy on us.**

Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

**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.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Sit*

- 1 O darkest woe!  
Ye tears, forth flow!  
    Has earth so sad a wonder?  
God the Father's only Son  
    Now is buried yonder.
- 2 O sorrow dread!  
Our God is dead,  
    Upon the cross extended.  
There His love enlivened us  
    As His life was ended.
- 3 O child of woe:  
Who struck the blow  
    That killed our gracious Master?  
"It was I," thy conscience cries,  
    "I have wrought disaster!"
- 4 Thy Bridegroom dead!  
God's Lamb has bled  
    Upon Thy sin forever,  
Pouring out His sinless self  
    In this vast endeavor.
- 5 Such innocence!  
His countenance  
    A fount of faith undying!  
Worlds on worlds cannot contain  
    Grief at Him here lying.
- 6 O Virgin's Son,  
What Thou has won  
    Is far beyond all telling:

How our God, detested, died,  
Hell and devil felling.

7 O Jesus Christ,  
Who sacrificed  
Thy life for lifeless mortals:  
Be my life in death and bring  
Me to heaven's portals!

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

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 so 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.

**Amen.**

*Stand*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Reading**

Mark 16:1-8

<sup>1</sup> When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup> And

looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. <sup>5</sup> And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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.” <sup>8</sup> 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**Brief homily**

**Pastor Maggard**

*Stand*

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

Let us pray.

O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, 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.**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **Pax Domini**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

#### **Agnus Dei**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world, have mercy upon us,**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

*Sit*



## Distribution

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins. **Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins. **Amen.**

## Communion Hymn

*Were You There*

456

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

4 Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

*Stand*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen  
and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.  
Depart in peace.

**Amen.**

### **Nunc Dimittis**

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace  
according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy  
salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all  
people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy  
people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to  
the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now, and ever  
shall be, world without end. Amen.**

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**And His mercy endureth forever.**

Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have  
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You  
that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the  
same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one  
another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, and Lord, who lives  
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.

**Amen.**

### **Salutation and Beneficium**

The Lord be with you  
**And with thy spirit.**

Bless we the Lord.

**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.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

*Sit*

**Recessional Hymn**

*All Christians Who Have Been Baptized*

596

- 1 All Christians who have been baptized,  
Who know the God of heaven,  
And in whose daily life is prized  
The name of Christ once given:  
Consider now what God has done,  
The gifts He gives to ev'ryone  
Baptized into Christ Jesus!
- 2 You were before your day of birth,  
Indeed, from your conception,  
Condemned and lost with all the earth,  
None good, without exception.  
For like your parents' flesh and blood,  
Turned inward from the highest good,  
You constantly denied Him.
- 3 But all of that was washed away —  
Immersed and drowned forever.  
The water of your Baptism day

Restored again whatever  
Old Adam and his sin destroyed  
And all our sinful selves employed  
According to our nature.

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

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

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

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**Serving Today**

**Organist**

**Elder**

**Communion Elder**

**Altar Guild**

*Gail James*

*Kurt Wampole*

*Ron Pickinpaugh*

*Kathy Holm, Maletta Miller*