

The Three Days – The Great Vigil of Easter, 2021

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Concordia Lutheran Church & Faith Lutheran Church
Saturday, April 3, 2021, 7:00 PM

Topic: Easter Vigil

Time: Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM Eastern Time

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Dial-In

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Pastor Marschhausen

From earliest times Christians have gathered through the night of Easter to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, the Easter Liturgy is not merely a presentation of God's work. It is meant to be a real experience of new life for the worshipper, a passing from darkness to light which offers hope to all the faithful.

Reverend Johnson

The Easter Vigil marks the end of the emptiness of Holy Saturday and leads into the celebration of Christ's resurrection. The singing of the *Exsultet*, the ancient hymn of triumph and rejoicing, links this night of our Christian redemption to the Passover night of Israel's redemption out of Egypt. Christian baptism is a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, a dying to sin in order to be reborn in him, and the Easter Vigil was from early Christian times a preferred occasion for baptism. It is fittingly a time when those who are already Christians may repeat with renewed commitment the promises of their own baptism, and strengthen their sense of incorporation into the royal and priestly ministry of the whole people of God.

Were it not for the pandemic, the Easter Gospel is proclaimed with all the joy and splendor that the church can find followed by a festive celebration of the Eucharist. God willing, next Easter Vigil!

THE EASTER VIGIL – PART I: THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

A Video of *The New Fire* is played

The first part of the liturgy ends and we turn to hearing readings representing the breadth and depth of the salvation story.

THE EASTER VIGIL – PART II: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Welcome

Deacon Fedorchak

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

The First Reading: Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a The Story of Creation

Reader from St. Mary's

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of

the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ^{4a}These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Psalm 36:5-10

Deacon Winzler leads

⁵Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

**⁶Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep;
you save both man and beast, O Lord.**

⁷How priceless is your love, O God.

Your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

**⁸They feast upon the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

⁹For with you is the well of life,
and in your light we see light.

**¹⁰Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you,
and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Let us pray. (Silence)

Reverend Johnson

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Second Reading: Exodus 14:1 – 15:1 Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

Reader from Concordia

¹Then the LORD said to Moses: ²Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall camp opposite it, by the sea. ³Pharaoh will say of the Israelites, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has closed in on them.' ⁴I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, so that I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army; and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

⁵When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, "What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?" ⁶So he had his chariot made ready, and took his army with him; ⁷he took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out boldly. ⁹The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and his army; they overtook them camped by the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let

us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

¹⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward.

Canticle 8, The Song of Moses

Deacon Fedorchak leads

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted;
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

**The Lord is my strength and my refuge;
the Lord has become my Savior.**

This is my God and I will praise him,
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

**The Lord is a mighty warrior;
Yahweh is his Name.**

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army he has hurled into the sea;
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.

**The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them;
they sank into the depths like a stone.**

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might;
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

Who can compare with you, O Lord, among the gods?

Who is like you, glorious in holiness, awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?

You stretched forth your right hand;
the earth swallowed them up.

**With your constant love you led the people you redeemed;
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.**

You will bring them in and plant them
on the mount of your possession,

**the resting place you have made for yourself, O Lord,
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.**

The Lord shall reign forever and ever.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Pastor Marschhausen

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be 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 rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Third Reading: The Story of Jonah from "Godly Play"

Laura Hart, St. Mary's

Silence for reflection.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Reverend Johnson

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Fourth Reading: Ezekiel 36:24-28 A new heart and a new spirit *Reader from Concordia*

²⁴I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Psalm 42:1-7

Deacon Winzler leads

¹As the deer longs for the water-brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

²**My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?**

³My tears have been my food day and night,
while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"

⁴**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,**

⁵with the voice of praise and thanksgiving,
among those who keep holy-day.

⁶**Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
And why are you so disquieted within me?**

⁷Put your trust in God;
for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Let us pray. (Silence)

Pastor Marschhausen

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Fifth Reading: Zephaniah 3:12-20 The gathering of God's people

Reader from St. Mary's

¹²For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly.
They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD — ¹³the remnant of Israel;
they shall do no wrong and utter no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths.
Then they will pasture and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Psalm 98

Deacon Fedorchak leads

¹Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvelous things.

²**With his right hand and his holy arm**

has he won for himself the victory.

³The Lord has made known his victory;

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴**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.

⁵Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;

lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁶**Sing to the Lord with the harp,**

with the harp and the voice of song.

⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn

shout with joy before the king, the Lord.

⁸**Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,**

the lands and those who dwell therein.

⁹Let the rivers clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

¹⁰**In righteousness shall he judge the world**

and the peoples with equity.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Reverend Jofinson

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE EASTER VIGIL – PART III: THE LITURGY OF THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Reverend Johnson

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism 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 faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Pastor Marschhausen

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Reverend Johnson

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayer? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

THE EASTER VIGIL – PART IV: THE PASCHAL FEAST

The Easter Gospel – Luke 24:1-7

Deacon Winzler

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

Reverend Johnson

The good news is shared! With Mary Magdalene and all of the apostles, with saints throughout the centuries, with our ancestors in faith, I too proclaim to you:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen indeed, Alleluia!**

We joyfully proclaim...

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen indeed, Alleluia!**

The Hymn

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

- 1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n today! Sing songs of praise along his way;
let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 5 To God the Father, God the Son, to God the Spirit always One,
we sing for life in us begun: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Collect

Pastor Marschhausen

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celtic Alleluia



The Easter Gospel Matthew 28:1-10

Deacon Fedorchak

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Prayers of the People

Deacon Winzler

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That you Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, pastors, priests and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief, trouble or illness;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

The Peace

Reverend Johnson

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Music Meditation *My Faith Looks Up To Thee*

Music by Lowell Mason, arr. Cindy Berry
Kelly Sharp

Prayer While We Are Unable to Receive Holy Communion

Pastor Marschhausen

Preface to the Prayer: *On Maundy Thursday, we remember the last supper that Jesus ate with his friends, which has become for us the Holy Eucharist. This evening, once again, we can remember the last time we received Holy Communion, and look again to receive this gift, together, in the future. And so we pray:*

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

I am baptized into your death and resurrection.

I seek you daily. I worship and adore you.

Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness,

through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people;

that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.

Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace.

Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey

through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death.

And return us all, Lord Jesus, to your Holy Table when this is over.

I pray all this, trusting that you are our life, our peace, and our everlasting joy. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Reverend Johnson

We are bold to pray the prayer Christ taught his disciples:

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.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Marschhausen

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

The Benediction

Reverend Johnson

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,

open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,

give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and

fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son ✠, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Hymn

The Day of Resurrection

1 The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;

the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.

From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,

our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright

the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;

and, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain

his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin,

the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;

let all things seen and unseen their notes together blend,

for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.

The Dismissal

Deacon Winzler

Let us bless the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

The Postlude

Festive Trumpet Tune, Rob McCrann, Faith Lutheran

NOTES:

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