

The Vigil of Easter

April 3, 2021 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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Focus on the Season: The Vigil of Easter

From death to life, from darkness to light, from silence to song, and from creation to resurrection through the history of God's redeeming love – this is the content and the direction of the Vigil of Easter. We gather – in our own homes this year – in the darkness of the tomb, awaiting God, and then we see the Light of Christ, and welcome God's new creation which gives life to the world.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship tonight. The link is embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the link in the email.

Place in your worship space a new pillar candle if you have one, or one you can set aside for the year for this purpose, other candles you'd like to have lighted, your baptismal candle, if you have it, a small bowl of water, matches, and bells.

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Centering and Gathering

[Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.

Gather in darkness if possible. Don't light the candles yet.

LITURGY OF LIGHT AND MARKING THE NEW PASCHAL CANDLE

Recorded on Monday, March 29, 2021.

After the Paschal Candle is lighted, light your pillar candle, a new fire in the darkness of this time.

Responses in the liturgy of light: **C** Amen

PROCESSION WITH NEW PASCHAL CANDLE

L The light of Christ!

C Thanks be to God

Light any other candles in your home.

EXSULTET – Recorded Wednesday, March 24, 2021; Susan Cherwien, soloist

Service of Readings

All responses recorded by members of the Cantorei on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a, Creation; Diana Hellerman, reader

Response: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

setting by David Cherwien

Silence, followed by prayer (led by Vicar Bonneville)

SECOND READING: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21; Deliverance at the Red Sea; Amy Thompson, reader

Response: "O Mary, Don't You Weep"

arr. Georg T. Worth

Silence, followed by prayer (led by Vicar Bonneville)

THIRD READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Valley of the dry bones; Adam Krueger, reader

Response: Psalm 143 *refrain by Daniel Schwandt; psalm tone, revised Gregorian*

Silence, followed by prayer (led by Vicar Bonneville)

FOURTH READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11, Clothed in the garments of salvation; Lora Dundek, reader

Response: Deuteronomy 32:1-4, 7, 36a, 43a

setting by Chad Fothergill

Silence, followed by prayer (led by Vicar Bonneville)

FIFTH READING: Daniel 3:1-29; Deliverance from the fiery furnace. John Gidmark, reader

Response: Song of the Three, 35-65 *setting by A. Gregory Murray*

Silence, followed by prayer (led by Vicar Bonneville)

Baptismal Affirmation

If you have it, light your baptismal candle from the newly lighted candle.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

- P** The Lord be with you.
 - C** And also with you.
 - P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 - C** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Water is poured into the bowl as the pastor gives thanks. Fill your bowl with water as well.

- P** Holy God, mighty Lord, eternal Father: Blessed are you, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation, and your Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. Christ sends us now to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

BLESSING OF THE FONT WITH THE PASCHAL CANDLE

- ¶ May the power of the Holy Spirit be poured out on this font we have filled. *Sung three times.*
 - ¶ May all who are buried with Christ in baptismal death rise also with him to newness of life, through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

RESPONSE: "Springs of water, bless the Lord"

setting by David Cherwien

Recorded by members of the Cantorei on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

- ¶ Through the Paschal mystery 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 demonic works, and promised to serve God faithfully in the one holy catholic Church.
- ¶ Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- ¶ I renounce them.
- ¶ Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- ¶ I renounce them.
- ¶ Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- ¶ I renounce them.
- ¶ 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. Amen
- ¶ Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
- ¶ 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.
- ¶ The God of peace, who, in great mercy has given us a new birth into a living hope by water and the Spirit, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among

us that which is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

C Amen

LITANY

Responses to the litany: Part One – C God's mercy endures forever.

Part Two – C Blessed be Christ.

Word

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Response: C He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Ring bells, turn on lights, make music, dance, and rejoice as the hymn begins.

HYMN: ELW 367, "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

Sung at Mount Olive on the Great Vigil of Easter, April 13, 2017.

READING: Romans 6:3-11; Kat Campbell Johnson, assisting minister

GRADUAL HYMN: ELW 449. "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

Stanzas 1 and 2 are sung before the Gospel. Stanzas 3 and 4 are sung following the Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Our Assisting Minister for today, Kat Campbell Johnson, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this night. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ.

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: Amen*

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

L Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

L Go in the peace of the risen Christ!

C Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE:

"Prelude to Te Deum"

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634-1704)

Recorded on March 24, 2021; Charles Lazarus, trumpet; Cantor David Cherwien, organ.

