

**EASTER VIGIL**  
**APRIL 15, 2017**  
**5:00PM**

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**As We Gather**

Down through the ages, the almighty God has accomplished mighty acts of creation, deliverance, and salvation. As the psalmist declares: "One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. (Psalm 145:4-6)

Tonight we recount some of the most significant of the mighty acts of God, culminating in the salvation of all worked through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Service of Light**

*(At the invitation of the pastor, rise and face the Christ candle.)*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: 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 sin and 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 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.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Pastor: The Light of Christ

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*(When the candle reaches the center of the sanctuary)*

Pastor: The Light of Christ

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*(When the candle reaches the front of the sanctuary)*

Pastor: The Light of Christ

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation, sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places 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 all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality. This is the night when Christ, who is the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night. 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.

**People: Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

**Hymn #790**

**“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?

*2 continued*

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

### **Service of Readings from Holy History**

Pastor: 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***

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Lector: 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.

**People: Amen.**

#### ***The Flood Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13***

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

#### **Hymn #798 "The God of Abraham Praise" Stanzas 1-5, 9** *(Rise for last stanza)*

The God of Abr'ham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days And God of love.  
Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n confessed;  
I bow and bless the sacred name Forever blest.

The God of Abr'ham praise, At whose supreme command  
From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.  
I all on earth forsake, Its wisdom, fame and pow'r,  
And Him my only portion make, My shield and tow'r.

The God of Abr'ham praise, Whose all sufficient grace  
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days In all my ways.  
He deigns to call me friend; He calls Himself my God.  
And He shall save me to the end Through Jesus' blood.

He by Himself has sworn; I on His oath depend.  
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, To heav'n ascend.  
I shall behold His face; I shall His pow'r adore  
And sing the wonders of His grace Forevermore.

Though nature's strength decay, And earth and hell withstand,  
To Canaan's bounds I urge my way At His command.  
The wat'ry deep I pass, With Jesus in my view,  
And through the howling wilderness My way pursue.

The whole triumphant host Give thanks to God on high.  
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" They ever cry.  
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'nly lays:  
All might and majesty are Thine And endless praise!

#### ***Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea Exodus 14:10-15:2***

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

#### ***Job Confesses the Redeemer Job 19:20-27***

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Lector: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**Hymn #461 "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"**

I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;  
He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;  
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives; I know that my Redeemer lives!

**Service of Holy Baptism**

*Pastoral Introduction and Prayer*

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil?

**People: Yes, I renounce him.**

Pastor: Do you renounce all his works?

**People: Yes, I renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you renounce all his ways?

**People: Yes, I renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

**People: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

**People: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

**People: Amen.**

**Baptismal Hymn #605 "Father Welcomes"**

**Refrain: Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son.  
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.**

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.  
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;  
Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.  
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

*(Rise)*

**Proclamation of the Easter Gospel**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, you made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve us in the spirit of adoption which you have given us, that having been made alive in Christ in both 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.

**People: Amen.**

**Holy Gospel John 20:1-18**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ**

*(Be seated)*

### Sermon Hymn #822 “Alleluia! Let Praises Ring”

Alleluia! Let praises ring! To God the Father let us bring Our songs of adoration.  
To Him through everlasting days Be worship, honor, pow’r, and praise,  
Whose hand sustains creation. Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy;  
Spread the story Of our God, the Lord of glory.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Lamb of God we sing, In whom we are elected.  
He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in that blessed flood,  
And as His bride selected. Holy, holy, Is our union And communion.  
His befriending Gives us joy and peace unending.

Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Holy Ghost we sing For our regeneration.  
The saving faith in us He wrought And us unto the Bridegroom brought,  
Made us His chosen nation. Glory! Glory! Joy eternal, Bliss supernal; There is manna  
And an endless, glad hosanna.

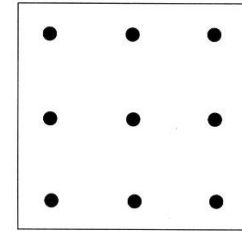
Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto our triune God we sing; Blest be His name forever!  
With angel hosts let us adore And sing His praises evermore For all His grace and favor!  
Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy; Spread the story Of our God, the Lord of glory!

### Sermon

### “Thinking Outside the Tomb”

John 20:1-18

*Instructions: Connect all nine dots with four straight lines without lifting your pencil/pen.*



**Offerings** As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

*(Rise)*

### Service of Prayer

*Litany of the Resurrection*

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshipped by her,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: 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,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them your peace and your Spirit,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Who commissioned your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: By your glorious resurrection from the dead,

**People: good Lord, deliver us.**

Pastor: By your victory over sin and death,

**People: good Lord, deliver us.**

Pastor: By the majesty of your risen body,

**People: good Lord, deliver us.**

Pastor: We poor sinners implore you

**People: to hear us, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: That we may daily die and rise with you in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of your forgiveness,

**People: grant us, good Lord.**

Pastor: That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving others as we have been served by you,

**People: grant us, good Lord.**

Pastor: That we may dwell with you forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,

**People: grant us, good Lord.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**People: have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**People: grant us your peace.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

### **Collects**

Pastor: Let us pray: O God, for our redemption you gave your only-begotten Son into 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.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: O Lord God, heavenly Father, you gave your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification. By your Holy Spirit grant us newness of life that through the power of Christ's resurrection we may dwell with Him forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, filled with hope for eternity; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **Benediction**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you, now and always.

**People: Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn #463 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia"**

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!

Hail, 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!

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Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lector  
Organist

Pastor Tim Prince  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Russell Hurst  
Michelle Prince

# *Easter Worship*

*7:00, 9:00 & 11:00am*

