

## Easter Vigil

April 4, 2015

5:00pm

### 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 rear of the church)

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 blessings of life and salvation, we share in His victory over sin and death.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Pastor: 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.**

*(Repeated as the candle reaches the middle and front of the church)*

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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.**

**Hymn #525**

**"Crown Him With Many Crowns"**

(Be seated)

### 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.

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***The Creation Gen 1:1-2:3***

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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 Gen 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 #728 "How Firm a Foundation"**

***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***

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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 #515 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"**

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## 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.**

***Baptism 1 Peter 3:18-22***

**Hymn #590 "Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy"**

(Rise)

**Proclamation of the Easter Gospel**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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### 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.**

### *The Resurrection Mark 16:1-8*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' " Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Be seated)

### Sermon Hymn #516 "Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying"

### Sermon "Keep Watch! Stay Awake! The New Light Dawns!"

**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: have mercy on us.**

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, you made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption 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.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

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**Benediction**

Pastor: May God the Father, who has loved us, making us His own dear children through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Christ Jesus, lavish upon you the riches of His blessing.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: May God the Son, who through the Word of His grace has called us from death in sin into newness of life in Himself, strengthen you on your pilgrim way and bring you to your eternal inheritance.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: May God the Holy Spirit, who through the waters of Baptism has been poured into our hearts with the love of God and the faith that is in Christ Jesus, sanctify you fully and keep your whole spirit and soul and body blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you now and always.

**People: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn #549**

**"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"**

Stanzas 1,2,3,7

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Preacher  
Liturgist  
Organist

Pastor Gregg Stanton  
Pastor Harold Bender  
Roger Gottschalk