

Easter Vigil
March 26, 2016
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 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.

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

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 #537

"Beautiful Savior"

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shine purer Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration Now and forever-more be Thine!

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 #761 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly: Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

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 20th 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 #821

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:

“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! He is near us: Faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o’er,

Shall our hearts forget His promise: “I am with you evermore”?

Aleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.

Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea

Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;

Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav’n Your throne.

As within the veil You entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,

Here on earth both priest and victim In the Eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:

“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

Sermon

“How Long, O Lord, How Long?”

Psalm 6:1-4

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 #525 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight.
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

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Preacher
Liturgist
Lector

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Russell Hurst