



Easter Vigil

Augustana Lutheran Church

March 30, 2024

Thank you for silencing your mobile device.
An asterisk (*) invites the congregation to stand.

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Beloved people of God, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. Through light and the word, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

***Prayer**

P: Let us pray. Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Hymn: "Jesus Loves Me" #595**

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a *Creation*

Before God created the world, there was nothing at all—except God. On the first day of creation, the wind of God blew. WHISH! WHOOSH! SWOOSH! God said, "Let there be light!" CRACKLE! BOOM! BANG! There was light. God saw that the light was good. Then, SPLLLLLLITTT! God divided the light and the darkness into day and night.

On the second day, God said, "Let there be a sky!" PILLOW! BILLOW! PUFF! There was a sky. God saw that the sky was good.

On the third day, God said, "Let there be water and dry land!" DRIP! DROP! KERPLUNK! There was water. CRACKLE! CRUNCH! SNAP! There was dry land. God saw that the water and land were good.

Then God said, "Let there be plants and trees!" RUMBLE! RUSTLE! POP! There were plants and trees. God saw that the plants and trees were good.

On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be a sun and a moon and stars!" GLIMMER! SHIMMER! SHINE!. There was a sun and a moon and thousands of stars. God saw that the sun and the moon and the stars were good.

On the fifth day, God said, "Let there be sea animals that swim and birds that fly!" WIGGLE! SPLISH! SPLASH! There were sea animals. FLUTTER! PUTTER! TWEET! There were birds. God saw that the sea animals and birds were good.

On the sixth day, God said, "Let there be animals of every kind on the earth!"

GROWL! PROWL! SNORT! There were animals with fur. SKITTER! SKATTER! CREEP! There were bugs. SLITHER! SLINK! HOP! There were reptiles. God saw that the animals and bugs and reptiles were good. Then God said, "Let there be people on the earth!" BLINK! WINK! HICCUP! There were people on the earth. God saw that the people were very good.

On the seventh day, God said, "It is time to rest!" WHEW! PSHEW! AHHH! God and all of creation rested.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

FIRST RESPONSE: Psalm 136:1–9, 23–26

¹Praise the Lord! He is good. God's love never fails.

²**Praise the God of all gods. God's love never fails.**

³Praise the Lord of lords. God's love never fails.

⁴**Only God works great miracles. God's love never fails.**

⁵With wisdom he made the sky. God's love never fails.

⁶**The Lord stretched the earth over the ocean. God's love never fails.**

⁷He made the bright lights in the sky. God's love never fails.

⁸**He lets the sun rule each day. God's love never fails.**

⁹He lets the moon and the stars rule each night. God's love never fails.

²³**God saw the trouble we were in. God's love never fails.**

²⁴He rescued us from our enemies. God's love never fails.

²⁵**He gives food to all who live. God's love never fails.**

²⁶Praise God in heaven! God's love never fails.

SECOND READING: Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21

It was a long journey leaving Egypt. The Israelites camped on the shore of the Red Sea. The people were feeling really nervous. Moses squinted into the darkening sky. Had he heard something? Something in the distance? Moses shook his head slowly. He did not trust Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to keep his promise.

"Do you think Pharaoh followed us? Aaron asked. Moses stood listening. "We will see," Moses said. "We will see." Moses didn't have to wait very long.

Soon a growing cloud of dust rose up in the distance. A rumble of horse hoofs thundered toward the travelers. They could see them clearly now. Hundreds of Pharaoh's chariots charged towards them. Hundreds of soldiers followed with orders to bring the people back.

"We're trapped!" someone yelled. A strong wind began to blow. Cries went up from the people. "Moses," they shouted, "have you brought us here to die?!" Don't be afraid," Moses told his people. "Stand firm. God is with us."

Moses gripped the staff in his hand. "Prepare to move out!" he shouted into the wind.

"Where, Moses?" Aaron said. "There is no place to go!"

"Through the Red Sea," Moses said. "God will make a way."

Moses stood on the edge of the shore. He raised his right arm. He stretched his staff out over the white waves. The waters trembled and divided. The wild wind roared. Soon a wall of water stood on the left and the right. Dry land appeared between the walls. A safe path to the other side! "Move, now!" Moses ordered. How strange it must have felt to step on to the sandy path. How scary to feel the spray from water waiting on either side. Would God save them? Would God keep the promise to Moses?

In the morning, Pharaoh's army stood on the Red Sea shore. They saw the Israelites safe on the other side. Soon chariots groaned and soldiers cracked their whips. Pharaoh's army moved slowly across the rocky and sandy path. "They will catch us!" a young woman yelled.

"Watch and wait," said Moses. Moses once again held his staff up over the walls of waves. Tons of water came tumbling down! Horses, chariots, and riders were all swept into the sea.

From the safe shore came sounds of singing and dancing, led by Miriam, Moses' sister. "Sing to the Lord," the Israelites shouted. "God has saved us!"

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND RESPONSE: Exodus 15:1b–13, 17–18

^{1b}I sing praises to the Lord for his great victory!

He has thrown the horses and their riders into the sea.

²The Lord is my strength, the reason for my song, because he has saved me.

I praise and honor the Lord—he is my God and the God of my ancestors.

³The Lord is his name, and he is a warrior!

⁴He threw the chariots and army of Egypt's king into the Red Sea, and he drowned the best of the king's officers.

⁵They sank to the bottom just like stones.

⁶With the tremendous force of your right arm, our Lord, you crushed your enemies.

⁷What a great victory was yours, when you defeated everyone who opposed you.

Your fiery anger wiped them out, as though they were straw.

⁸You were so furious that the sea piled up like a wall, and the ocean depths curdled like cheese.

⁹Your enemies boasted that they would pursue and capture us, divide up our possessions, treat us as they wished, then take out their swords and kill us right there.

¹⁰But when you got furious, they sank like lead, swallowed by ocean waves.

¹¹Our Lord, no other gods compare with you—Majestic and holy! Fear-some and glorious! Miracle worker!

¹²When you signaled with your right hand, your enemies were swallowed deep into the earth.

¹³The people you rescued were led by your powerful love to your holy place.

¹⁷You will let your people settle on your own mountain, where you chose to live and to be worshiped.

¹⁸Our Lord, you will rule forever!

THIRD READING: Isaiah 55:1–11

"Hey there! All who are thirsty, come to the water! Are you penniless? Come anyway—buy and eat! Come, buy your drinks, buy wine and milk. Buy without money—everything is free! Why do you spend your money on junk food, your hard-earned cash on cotton candy? Listen to me, listen well: Eat only the best, fill yourself with only the finest. Pay attention, come close now, listen carefully to my life-giving, life-nourishing words. I'm making an everlasting promise with you, the same that I made with David: sure, solid, enduring love. I set him up as

a witness to the nations, made him a prince and leader of the nations, And now I'm doing it to you: You will call together nations you've never heard of, and nations who've never heard of you will come running to you Because of me, your God, because The Holy of Israel has honored you."

Follow God while he is near, pray to him while he is close at hand. Let the wicked give up their way of life and the evil their way of thinking. Let them come back to God, who is merciful, come back to our God, who is generous with forgiveness.

"I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work."

"For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work beats the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think. Just as rain and snow come down from the skies and don't go back until they've watered the earth, Doing their work of making things grow and blossom, producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry, So will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed. They will do the work I sent them to do, they will complete the assignment I gave them.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THIRD RESPONSE: Isaiah 12:2-6

Shout out loud, and sing with glee

For the Holy One is with thee.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid,

for God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

Shout out loud, and sing with glee

For the Holy One is with thee.

With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation.

Shout out loud, and sing with glee

For the Holy One is with thee.

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

Shout out loud, and sing with glee

For the Holy One is with thee.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

Shout out loud, and sing with glee

For the Holy One is with thee.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Shout out loud, and sing with glee

For the Holy One is with thee.

FOURTH READING: Daniel 3:1-29

King Nebuchadnezzar made people build a big gold statue for him. It was almost 100 feet tall and nine feet wide! He ordered all of his governors, advisors, treasurers, judges, and other people in the government to come from everywhere in his kingdom to see the big gold statue. They all came and stood in front of it.

Then, his servant stood up and said: "All you people, listen to the king's command! When you hear trumpets, and flutes, and harps, and all other kinds of musical instruments playing, you must bow down and worship the statue that King

Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Anyone who refuses, will be thrown into a flaming furnace.

As soon as the people heard the music, they bowed down and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

A certain group of people used this chance to tattle on the Jewish people who worshiped God. That group went to Nebuchadnezzar and said, "Your Majesty, we hope you live forever! We know that you commanded everyone to bow down to the statue when they heard the trumpets, and flutes, and harps, and all other kinds of musical instruments playing. And you said if anyone didn't do that, they would be thrown into a flaming furnace. Well, sire, three men you made supervisors in Babylon have disobeyed you. Those Jewish men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, refuse to do what you say.

Nebuchadnezzar was furious! He sent for the three young men and asked them, "Why do you refuse to bow down to the statue when you hear the trumpets, and flutes, and harps, and all other kinds of musical instruments playing? You have one more chance and if you bow down and worship the statue when you hear the trumpets, and flutes, and harps, and all other kinds of musical instruments playing, then you will be all right. But if you do not bow down, you will be thrown into the flaming furnace immediately! No god can save you from me!"

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

FOURTH RESPONSE: Song of the Three 1:35–65

All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

**You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord;
you heavens, bless the Lord;
all you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord.**

You sun and moon, bless the Lord;
you stars of heaven, bless the Lord;
you rain and dew, bless the Lord.

**You winds of God, bless the Lord;
you fire and heat, bless the Lord;
you winter and summer, bless the Lord.**

You dews and falling snow, bless the Lord;
you frost and cold, bless the Lord;
you ice and snow, bless the Lord.

**You nights and days, bless the Lord;
you light and darkness, bless the Lord;
you lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord.**

Let the earth bless the Lord;
you mountains and hills, bless the Lord;
all you green things that grow on the earth, bless the Lord.

**You wells and springs, bless the Lord;
you seas and rivers, bless the Lord;
you whales and all that swim in the waters, bless the Lord.**

All you birds of the air, bless the Lord;
all you wild animals and cattle, bless the Lord;
all you children of mortals, bless the Lord.

**You people of God, bless the Lord;
you priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;
you servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.**

You spirits and souls of the righteous, bless the Lord;
you holy and humble in heart, bless the Lord;
let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

READING: Romans 6:3–11

³Don't you know that all who share in Christ Jesus by being baptized also share in his death? ⁴When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ. We were baptized, so we would live a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father.

⁵If we shared in Jesus' death by being baptized, we will be raised to life with him. ⁶We know that the persons we used to be were nailed to the cross with Jesus. This was done, so our sinful bodies would no longer be the slaves of sin.

⁷We know sin doesn't have power over dead people.

⁸As surely as we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him. ⁹We know that death no longer has any power over Christ. He died and was raised to life, never again to die. ¹⁰When Christ died, he died for sin once and for all. But now he is alive, and he lives only for God. ¹¹In the same way, you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 20:1–18

¹On Sunday morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ²She ran to Simon Peter and to Jesus' favorite disciple and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him." ³Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴They ran side by side, until the other disciple ran faster than Peter and got there first. ⁵He bent over and saw the strips of linen cloth lying inside the tomb, but he did not go in.

⁶When Simon Peter got there, he went into the tomb and saw the strips of cloth.

⁷He also saw the piece of cloth that had been used to cover Jesus' face. It was rolled up and in a place by itself. ⁸The disciple who got there first then went into the tomb, and when he saw it, he believed. ⁹At that time Peter and the other disciple did not know that the Scriptures said Jesus would rise to life. ¹⁰So the two of them went back to the other disciples.

¹¹Mary Magdalene stood crying outside the tomb. She was still weeping, when she stooped down ¹²and saw two angels inside. They were dressed in white and were sitting where Jesus' body had been. One was at the head and the other was at the foot. ¹³The angels asked Mary, "Why are you crying?" She answered, "They have taken away my Lord's body! I don't know where they have put him."

¹⁴As soon as Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know who he was. ¹⁵Jesus asked her, "Why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener and said, "Sir, if you have taken his body away, please tell me, so I can go and get him."

¹⁶Then Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him, "Rabboni." The Aramaic word "Rabboni" means "Teacher."

¹⁷Jesus told her, "Don't hold on to me! I have not yet gone to the Father. But tell

my disciples I am going to the one who is my Father and my God, as well as your Father and your God.”¹⁸ Mary Magdalene then went and told the disciples she had seen the Lord. She also told them what he had said to her.

***Spoken Gospel Response**

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

***Apostles' Creed**

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

***Prayers of intercession**

A: On this holiest of nights, we offer prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

A brief silence.

A: God of the ages, you have accompanied your people throughout history, delivering them from flood, fire, and famine. Inspire your church to tell the story of your unfailing love and presence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of the cosmos, you declared your creation good. Make us mindful of the roles every plant and creature play in your creation and guide us in protecting and restoring our shared home. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of the nations, you desire justice in all lands. Raise up leaders who encourage us to step away from fear and distrust and increase our desire for collaborative peace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of darkness, you keep watch as we labor through the night. Protect mothers in childbirth. Shelter all who have no safe place to lay their head. Give ample rest to any who cannot sleep due to fear, illness, or overwork. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of community, you knit your people together into one body through the waters of baptism. We pray for those newly baptized. Kindle faith in each person and renew our zeal to live out our baptismal promises. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of new life, you welcome the faithful dead with open arms and the assurance of new life. We give thanks for those who have died and rejoice that they have found rest in you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

C: Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***Blessing**

God, the Author of life,
Christ, the living Cornerstone,
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Hymn: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” #836**

***Dismissal**

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: Thanks be to God.

Today, Easter Vigil March 30 Worship Leaders—Presiding Minister: Pastor Chuck Meyer; Assisting Minister: Fred Hexom; Musician: Shannon Peterson; Technical Assistant: Team Levine; Acolyte: Alex Hexom

Easter Sunday, March 31 Worship Leaders—Presiding Minister: Pastor Chuck Meyer; Assisting Minister: Dave Madsen; Musician: Angela Iversen; Technical Assistant: Team Hexom; Altar Guild: Deb and Terry McAllister; Acolytes: Elie Iversen and Madeline Hexom

Congregational Mission Statement

A welcoming, caring congregation offering opportunities for
worship, spiritual growth, and fellowship.

We express our faith and love to others in the name of Jesus Christ.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.