

CHRIST THE KING FREE LUTHERAN

EASTER VIGIL

APRIL 3, 2021

Communion Statement

*"Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26*

All confirmed Christians who have been baptized in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, who repent of their sins and trust in the Savior's forgiveness assured in this Sacrament, and who share our belief that the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ are really present with and in the Bread and Cup, are welcome to commune with us.

† SERVICE OF LIGHT †

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Friends in Christ, whom the Lord dearly loves: at this most holy time, when our Lord 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, we share in His victory over death.

Prayer

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 new 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 the 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. **Amen.**

The pastor traces the cross on the candle while saying:

Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

*The pastor then traces the Greek letters
Alpha and Omega on the candle while saying:*

the Alpha and the Omega.

The pastor traces the year on the candle, saying:

His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever. By His wounds we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

The pastor lights the paschal candle.

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

Prayer

Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who share this night with true faith and joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness but now

we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

PROCESSION INTO THE SANCTUARY

All light their candles, passing the flame from the paschal candle to one another. After everyone's candles are lit, the congregation follows the light of the paschal candle into the church, stopping three times while the pastor says and the people respond:

The Light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

EASTER PROCLAMATION

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.

THE EASTER PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good and right to do so.

Prayer

We should always give all praise and glory to You, heavenly Father. Yet this night we rejoice especially in Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who offered Himself for the sin of all people. 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 You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground. 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, 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.

Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son. How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away. 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. **Amen.**

The members of the congregation extinguish their candles and may be seated.

† SERVICE OF READINGS †

THE CREATION

Genesis 1:1-2:3

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth."

And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and

subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.”³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he

Psalms 33:1-11 (antiphon v. 6)



**By the word of the LORD the heav- | ens were
made,
and by the breath of his mouth | all their
host.**

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you | righteous!
Praise befits the | upright.

**Give thanks to the LORD | with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of | ten
strings!**

Sing to him a | new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with | loud
shouts.

**For the word of the LORD is | upright,
and all his work is done in | faithfulness.**

He loves righteousness and | justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love | of the
LORD.

**By the word of the LORD the heav- | ens were
made,**

had done.³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Brief silence for reflection.

Prayer

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. **Amen.**

**and by the breath of his mouth | all their
host.**

He gathers the waters of the sea | as a heap;
he puts the deeps in | storehouses.

**Let all the earth | fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in
| awe of him!**

For he spoke, and it | came to be;
he commanded, and it | stood firm.

**The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to |
nothing;**

he frustrates the plans of the | peoples.

The counsel of the LORD stands | forever,
the plans of his heart to all gener- | ations.

**By the word of the LORD the heav- | ens were
made,
and by the breath of his mouth | all their
host.**

THE FLOOD

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. ² Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, ³ and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴ For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." ⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him....

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. ¹³ On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, ¹⁴ they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. ¹⁵ They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. ¹⁶ And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in. ¹⁷ The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters....

⁶ At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷ and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent forth a dove

from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. ⁹ But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. ¹⁰ He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. ¹¹ And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹² Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore. ¹³ In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out. ¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Go out from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—that they may swarm on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

¹⁸ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth.

¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future

generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Brief silence for reflection.

Prayer

Psalm 29 (antiphon v. 10)



**The LORD sits enthroned o- | ver the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | ever.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly | beings,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of |
holiness.**

The voice of the LORD is over the | waters;
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over
many | waters.

**The voice of the LORD is | powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of | majesty.**

The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of | Lebanon.

**He makes Lebanon to skip | like a calf,
and Sirion like a young | wild ox.**

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. **Amen.**

The voice | of the LORD
flashes forth | flames of fire.

**The voice of the LORD shakes the | wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness | of
Kadesh.**

The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth
and strips the | forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, | "Glory!"

**The LORD sits enthroned o- | ver the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | ever.**

May the LORD give strength to his | people!
May the LORD bless his people | with peace!

**The LORD sits enthroned o- | ver the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | ever.**

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10-15:1

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is not this what we said

to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

¹⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” ¹⁹ Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.” ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his

hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. ¹ Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Brief silence for reflection.

Prayer

O Lord, You once delivered Your people 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.

Amen.

Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18



**I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed |
gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown in- |
to the sea.**

The LORD is my strength and | my song,
and he has become my sal- | vation;
**this is my God, and I will | praise him,
my father’s God, and I will ex- | alt him.**

**I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed |
gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown in- |
to the sea.**

The LORD is a | man of war;
the LORD | is his name.

**Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast in- | to
the sea,
and his chosen officers were sunk in the |
Red Sea.**

The floods | covered them;
they went down into the depths | like a
stone.

**Your right hand, O LORD, glorious | in power,
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the |
enemy.**

**I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed |
gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown in- |
to the sea.**

Who is like you, O LORD, a- | mong the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing |
wonders?

**You stretched out your | right hand;
the earth | swallowed them.**

You have led in your steadfast love the people
whom you | have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to
your ho- | ly abode.

**You will bring them in and plant them on your
own | mountain,
the place, O LORD, which you have made
for | your abode,**

the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have
es- | tablished.

The LORD will reign forever and | ever.

**I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed |
gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown in- |
to the sea.**

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to

them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:8-15 (antiphon v. 12)



**Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.**

Let me hear joy and | gladness;
let the bones that you have bro- | ken
rejoice.

**Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out all my in- | iquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, | O God,
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.

**Cast me not away from your | presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.**

†
Brief silence for reflection.

Prayer

O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam's children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in Newness of life before You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.

**Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,
and sinners will re- | turn to you.**

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God
of my sal- | vation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your |
righteousness.

**O Lord, open | my lips,
and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.**

**Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.**

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Zephaniah 3:12-20

But I will leave in your midst
a people humble and lowly.
They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD,
¹³ those who are left in Israel;
they shall do no injustice
and speak no lies,
nor shall there be found in their mouth
a deceitful tongue.
For they shall graze and lie down,
and none shall make them afraid."

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against
you;

he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

- "Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
- 17 The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
- 18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the
festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
- 19 Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- 20 At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

Psalm 85 (antiphon v. 7)



**Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,
and grant us your sal- | vation.**

LORD, you were favorable | to your land;
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your | people;
you covered | all their sin.**

You withdrew | all your wrath;
you turned from your hot | anger.

**Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,
and put away your indignation | toward
us!**

Will you be angry with us for- | ever?
Will you prolong your anger to all gener- |
ations?

**Will you not revive | us again,
that your people may re- | joice in you?**

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Brief silence for reflection.

Prayer

Look in mercy, O Lord, upon Your faithful
people, and by Word and Spirit bring to
completion that good work which You have
begun in us. Gather in Your people that all the
world may see and know that what has been
cast down is raised up and what has grown old
is made new, until the work You have begun in
us is brought to its Joyful fulfillment in the day
of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,
and grant us your sal- | vation.**

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his
saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

**Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear
him,
that glory may dwell | in our land.**

Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

**Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,
and righteousness looks down | from the
sky.**

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,
and our land will yield its | increase.

**Righteousness will go be- | fore him
and make his foot- | steps a way.**

THE FIERY FURNACE

Daniel 3:1-30

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ² Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³ Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴ And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." ⁷ Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. ⁹ They declared to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! ¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image. ¹¹ And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. ¹² There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. ²⁰ And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²² Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

²⁵ He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the

God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Brief silence for reflection.

Prayer

O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN..... #153 *How Marvelous God's Greatness*

† REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM †

In Holy Baptism our sins are forgiven and we are granted a new life in Christ, our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I ask you, as a reaffirmation of what God has done for you in your Baptism, do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

I do renounce them.

Do you believe in God, the Father Al-mighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Al-mighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

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, dead, and 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 where He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

Do you promise to continue steadfast in this faith and in the promise of your Baptism, and, as a member of the Church, to be diligent in the use of the means of grace and prayer?

Yes, with the help of God.

Almighty God, the 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. Amen.

† EASTER ACCLIMATION †

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Matthew 28:1-7

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like

dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”

SERMON..... *THE EASTER ANGEL*



Mikhail Nesterov *The Empty Tomb*

HYMN.....*Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle*

1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; Sing the end - ing
 2 Tell how, when at length the full - ness Of the ap - point - ed
 3 Thus, with thir - ty years ac - com - plished, He went forth from
 4 Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph, Be for all the
 △ 5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; To the Fa - ther



of the fray. Now a - bove the cross, the tro - phy,
 time was come, He, the Word, was born of wom - an,
 Naz - a - reth, Des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,
 no - blest tree; None in fo - liage, none in blos - som,
 and the Son, To the e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or



Sound the loud tri - um - phant lay; Tell how Christ, the
 Left for us His Fa - ther's home, Blazed the path of
 Did His work, and met His death; Like a lamb He
 None in fruit thine e - qual be; Sym - bol of the
 Now and ev - er - more be done; Praise and glo - ry



world's re - deem - er, As a vic - tim won the day.
 true o - be - dience, Shone as light a - midst the gloom.
 hum - bly yield - ed On the cross His dy - ing breath.
 world's re - demp - tion, For the weight that hung on thee!
 in the high - est While the time - less a - ges run.

† SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT †**Prayer**

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. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name.**

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

**and forgive us our trespasses as we for-
give those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and
the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION**BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting † life. Amen.