



# Pilgrim Lutheran Church

## The Great Vigil of Easter

### April 19, 2025

*Ministering to All in the Heart of Superior*

#### **Introduction and Announcements**

*This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

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*We gather outside and light a new fire, signifying new life in Christ.*

#### **Greeting**

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

#### **Gathering Song**

*Light the Fire*

#### **Lighting of the Fire and Blessing the Paschal Candle**

Christ yesterday and today, **the beginning and the ending.**

To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; **to Christ belongs glory and dominion, now and forever. Amen.**

The Light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

#### **Procession to the Chapel**

*As we process inside, pick up a candle and light it from the paschal candle, then we proceed to the chapel chanting together:*

**The Light of Christ! | Thanks be to God!**

#### **The Easter Proclamation**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

*Petitions will end with "This is the night" and you are invited to respond, "This is the night!"*

#### **Prayer of the Day**

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. **Amen**

*On this holy night we gather around stories of God's persistent, saving grace throughout the generations. Traditionally, twelve scripture stories along with twelve corresponding responses accompany this night of worship. We gather with a slightly abridged version, highlighting the great saving stories of the Hebrew scriptures and the first Easter Gospel.*

<b>First Reading</b>	<i>Creation</i>	Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Sung Response	<i>In the Beginning</i>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<i>Deliverance at the Red Sea</i>	Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
Sung Response	<i>As I Went Down in the River to Pray</i>	
<b>Third Reading</b>	<i>Salvation freely offered to all</i>	Isaiah 55:1-11
Sung Response	<i>I Lift My Eyes Up</i>	
<b>Fourth Reading</b>	<i>Deliverance from the fiery furnace</i>	Daniel 3:1-29
Sung Response	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	
<b>New Testament Reading</b>	<i>Liberation in Christ</i>	Romans 6:3-11

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelu! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord! x2  
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah!  
Praise ye the Lord! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

**The Gospel of the Resurrection** John 20:1-18  
The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord!**  
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Affirmation of Baptism** ELW p. 235

**The Great Thanksgiving**  
**The Words of Institution**  
**The Lord's Prayer**

**Communion** *All are welcome at Christ's Table of Grace*  
**Special Music** *Remedy*

### **Blessing**

**Sending Hymn** *This Little Light of Mine* ELW 677  
*Everywhere I go... Jesus gave it to me...*

**Dismissal**  
Christ is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed!**  
Go in peace! Proclaiming the Risen Christ! **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

## Songs for Worship

### Light the Fire

V1: I stand, I stand to praise you,  
But I fall, on my knees;  
My spirit is willing,  
but my flesh is so weak.

### *Chorus*

Light the fire (*echo*)  
in my soul; (*in my weary soul*)  
Fan the flame (*echo*)  
make me whole (*make my spirit whole*)  
Lord, you know (*echo*)  
where I've been (*echo*)  
So light the fire in my heart again.

V2: I feel your arms around me,  
as the pow'r of your healing begins;  
Your Spirit flows through me,  
like a mighty, rushing wind. (*chorus*)

### In The Beginning

In the beginning God made the seas  
And the forests filled with trees  
God made the mountains up so high  
Above it all God placed the sky

God's fingerprints are everywhere  
Just to show how much God cares  
In this time he had some fun!  
He made a hippo that weighs a ton!

Hip-Hip-Hip Hippopotamus  
Hip-Hip-Hooray! God made all of us!  
Hip-Hip-Hip Hippopotamus  
Hip-Hip-Hooray! God made all of us!

## As I Went Down in the River to Pray

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
and who should wear the starry crown  
good Lord, show me the way!

O sisters, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O sisters, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
and who should wear the robe and crown  
good Lord, show me the way!

O brothers, let's go down,  
Let's go down, come on down

O brothers, let's go down  
down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
and who should wear the starry crown  
good Lord, show me the way!

O Christians, let's go down  
Let's go down, don't you wanna go down  
O Christians, let's go down,  
down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
and who should wear the starry crown  
good Lord, show me the way!

### **I Lift My Eyes Up**

I lift my eyes up, up to the mountains  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from you, maker of heaven  
Creator of the earth

Oh how I need you, Lord,  
you are my only hope  
you are my only prayer.  
So I will wait for you  
to come and rescue me  
to come and give me life

### **Be Thou My Vision**

Be thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart  
Not be all else to me save that thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys,  
O bright heaven's son  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

### **Remedy**

Here we are. Here we are. The broken and  
used. Mistreated, abused: Here we are  
Here You are. Here You are. The beautiful  
one, who came like a Son: Here You are

So we lift up our voices  
We open our hands  
To cling to the love  
That we can't comprehend  
Oh, lift up your voices  
And lift up your heads  
To sing of the love  
That has freed us from sin

He is the one, who has saved us  
He is the one, who embraced us  
He is the one who has come  
And is coming again, he's the remedy

Here we are. Here we are. Bandaged and  
bruised. Awaiting a cure: Here we are  
Here You are. Here You are Our beautiful  
King, bringing relief: Here You are.  
So we lift up our voices

And open our hands  
Let go of the things  
That have kept us from him  
He is the one, who has saved us  
He is the one, who forgave us  
He is the one who has come  
And is coming again, he's the remedy

Oh, I can't comprehend I can't take it all in  
Never understand, such perfect love  
For the broken and beat. For the wounded  
and weak. Oh, come fall at his feet  
He's the remedy - so sing!

You are the one, who has saved us  
You are the one, who forgave us  
You are the one who has come  
and is coming again: you're the remedy

Make it alright. Make it alright:  
You're the remedy. Let us be the remedy

**First Reading**

*Creation*

*Page 1 of 2*

**Genesis 1:1-2:4a**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 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 air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, 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.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

*Sung Response*

*In the Beginning*

**Second Reading***Deliverance at the Red Sea**Page 1 of 2***Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21**

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.” The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty.

The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.

The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Sung Response

*As I Went Down in the River to Pray*



**Third Reading**

*Salvation freely offered to all*

**Isaiah 55:1-11**

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Sung Response

*I Lift My Eyes Up*

## **Fourth Reading**

## *Deliverance from the fiery furnace*

### **Daniel 3:1-29**

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.” Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O King. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good.

**Continued: Fourth Reading**

*Deliverance from the fiery furnace*

But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. 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 tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them.

Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy 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 deliver in this way."

**Sung Response**

*Be Thou My Vision*

**New Testament Reading**

*Liberation in Christ*

**Romans 6:3-11**

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## **The Gospel of the Resurrection**

### **John 20:1-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.