

Easter Vigil Service, April 3, 2021, 8 pm

*The 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the faith community of Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church*



### **Introduction**

*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!*

### **Gathering**

*As the assembly gathers in silence, they are welcomed and given a candle and the Holy Communion Elements.*

### **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.**

### **New Fire Prayer & Remembering the Pascal Candle Inscription**

**Response Practice: O for a thousand tongues to sing sweet praise!**

Christ, yesterday and today,	†
the beginning	A
and the ending.	Ω
To Christ belongs all time	2
and all the ages;	0
to Christ belongs glory and dominion	2
now and forever.	1

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister lights the Paschal Candle. The fire is shared with the assembly.*

**Response Practice: The light | of Christ. Thanks be | to God.**

*The assisting minister lifts the candle so that all may see it. The assembly follows the Christ candle into the sanctuary. The assisting minister will stop twice as we make our way into the sanctuary.*

### **Procession**

## Easter Proclamation

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!  
Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;  
and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.  
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,  
radiant in the brightness of your king!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.  
Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!  
Let this place resound with joy,  
echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice  
we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin.  
For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain,  
by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the night **[This is the night]**  
in which, in ancient times,  
you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,  
and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.

This is the night **[This is the night]**  
in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.

This is the night **[This is the night]**  
in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin,  
are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.

This is the night **[This is the night]**  
in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.  
O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know  
the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell!

This is the night **[This is the night]**  
of which it is written: "The night is as clear as the day,"  
and, "then shall my night be turned into day."  
The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness;  
washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen,  
and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace;  
and humbles earthly pride.

Therefore, in this night of grace,  
receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving  
for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
reflected in the burning of this candle.  
We sing the glories of this pillar of fire,  
the brightness of which is not diminished  
even when its light is divided and borrowed.  
For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants,  
have made for the substance of this candle.  
This is the night **[This is the night]**  
in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O God,  
that this candle, burning to the honor of your name,  
will continue to vanquish the darkness of night  
and be mingled with the lights of heaven.  
May Christ the Morning Star find it burning,  
that Morning Star who never sets,  
that Morning Star who, rising from the grave,  
faithfully sheds light on the whole human race.

And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve  
with your continual protection your whole church,  
giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing;  
through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **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.**

*The assembly is seated and candles are extinguished. Spotlights turned on.*

## WORD

**Vigil Readings** (abbreviated for pandemic)

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

*Creation*

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer

God before and God behind,  
God for us and God for your own self,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
creator of sea and sky,  
governor of day and night.  
We give thanks for your ordered gift of life to us,  
for the rhythms that reassure,  
for the equilibriums that sustain,  
for the reliabilities that curb our anxieties.  
We treasure from you,  
days to work and nights to rest.  
We cherish from you,  
days to control and nights to yield.  
We savor from you,  
days to plan and nights to dream.  
Be our day and our night,  
our heaven and our earth,  
our sea and our sky,  
and in the end our true home. **Amen.**

*Brueggemann, Our True Home, Awed to Heaven, pg. 21*



**Second Reading: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21**

*Deliverance at the Red Sea*

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer

You are the future,  
the red sky before sunrise  
over the fields of time.  
You are the cock's crow when night is done,  
you are the dew and the bells of matins,  
maiden, stranger, mother, death.  
You create yourself in ever-changing shapes  
that rise from the stuff of our days –  
unsung, unmourned, undescribed,  
like a forest we never knew.  
You are the deep innerness of all things,  
the last word that can never be spoken.  
To each of us you reveal yourself differently:  
to the ship as a coastline, to the shore as a ship.

*Rilke, II,22 Book of Hours, pg 177*

### **Third Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11**

*Salvation freely offered to all*

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Prayer**

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.

Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.

Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;

The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!

We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,

As all the world in wonder echoes shalom. **Amen.**

*A hymn as prayer, light dawns on a weary world, ELW 726 Text: Mary Louise Bringle Music: William P. Rowan*

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

*Deliverance from the fiery furnace*

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Prayer**

God of our mothers and fathers long gone and treasured,

God of our grandchildren yet to be and awaited,

God of our years, our days, and even of this moment:

Our lives are deeply rooted in miracles before us,

Our faith is richly set in courage running thick,

Our vocation is shaped by all those

who have risked for your purposes.

And now, in our remembering, we are made mindful

of our own place of call, and

our own time of obedience.

We pray for ourselves and for your whole church,

courage beyond our easier timidity,

vision beyond our present tense,

restlessness beyond our ready settlements, and

yielding beyond our will to manage.

Give us appropriate yielding that we may be like our remembered ones in freedom and in love for you. We pray in the name of Jesus whom we remember until he comes again. **Amen.**

*Brueggemann, Give us Appropriate Yielding, Awed to Heaven, pg. 95*

### **New Testament Reading: Romans 6:3-11**

*We were incorporated into the death of Jesus Christ in baptism and so were liberated from the dominion of sin. We also anticipate that we will be incorporated into the resurrection of Christ and so will be liberated from the hold death has over our mortal bodies.*

<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as able.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 20:1-18**

*This morning begins with confusion: the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>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.'" <sup>18</sup>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.  
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Reflection**

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **Peace (In ASL)**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **Offering**

#### **Offering Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God,  
ruler of heaven and earth.  
Day by day you shower us with blessings.  
As you have raised us to new life in Christ,  
give us glad and generous hearts,  
ready to praise you and to respond to those in  
need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



### **Words of Institution**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

Our faithful teacher Jesus gave us the words we need to bring us back to God and our God-given selves when he taught us to pray:

**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 forgive 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.**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

The risen Christ invites us to this table.  
Come, eat and be satisfied.

This is the body and blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

*The assembly communes itself using the distributed elements. All who desire communion on this day are welcome to commune with us and partake in the promise of eternal life by Jesus Christ himself. In solidarity with our siblings in recovery, we use non-alcoholic wine. Please indicate if you would like a gluten free communion wafer. If you do not wish to take communion, you are still invited to ask Pastor Ann for a blessing before you leave. Typically, those who commune are baptized into the Christian faith. If you are not baptized and would like to learn more about what it means to be baptized and share in the meal at the Lord's Supper Table, please talk with Pastor Ann.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Wellspring of joy,  
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us,  
and send us as joyful witnesses,  
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **SENDING**

#### **Blessing**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
The God of life,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Please remember the following people in your prayers:** Alek, Lori, Jonnie, Chandler, Larry, Keith, Paxton, Bruce, Mary, Cathy, Marlene, Larry, Jim, Tara, Jeff, Mary, Dave, Jim & Tina, Craig, Stacy, Ray, Pat, Doris, Richard, Mike, Mark, Anne, Christina, Cydney, Jake, Dawn, Rick and all who are in our prayers today.

***Nursing Home:*** Ruth Elavsky, Jim LeVeque, Babe Strand and Jean Moore

***Assisted Living:*** Norma Seceast

***In Service:*** Airman Craig Oas, Ryan Graves, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Sean Sutherland, Peter Peterson, Brad Salmi, Mathew Moilanen, Mikey Graves and our veterans who have returned to their communities.

***General:*** All who deal with COVID-19 here in our neighborhoods and beyond.

### **EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

**Sunday – April 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion – 10:30am**

Easter Vigil 8

- In-person and on Facebook Live

Wednesday – April 7<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday Bible Study – 5:30pm

Beginning on April 7<sup>th</sup> the Munising United Methodist Church will be offering a Community Grief Support Group which will run for four weeks. Please see flyer in Narthex for details. Open to All.

Sunday – April 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Service of the Word – 10:30am

- In-person and on Facebook Live

Reprinted with permission under One License #A-731951. All rights reserved.  
CCLI#1133887