



# Faith Lutheran Church

*Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others.*

## **Easter Vigil**

### **Liturgy of Light & Liturgy of the Word**

7 p.m., April 8, 2023



Presiding Minister: Rev. Eric Olsen

### **Lumen Christi**

Welcome to this Easter Vigil, the central liturgy of the Christian year. The night on which Christ arose from the dead is the occasion for our ritual participation in that resurrection event, our passing over with Christ from death to life.

The Easter Vigil developed from the ancient Night Watch, in which the faithful would gather in churches on the night of Easter to baptize those who had been prepared during the Lenten season and to await the hour when Christ arose from the tomb. The Church's most ancient Easter service is now being restored among us to give fuller expression to our celebration of the resurrection event. It is a service rich in symbolism and in contrast (darkness and light, death and life, chaos and order, slavery and freedom). Through this liturgy, we are powerfully reminded of who we are and are sacramentally renewed in that Christian identity. We are people who in Holy Baptism have passed from death to life. Through our Baptism, we join the death and resurrection of Jesus.

## Four Movements Comprise This Liturgy

**The Liturgy of Light** centers around the large Paschal candle, which is marked to represent Christ, the Light of the world. In darkness, the people follow the Light of Christ (*Lumen Christi*), just as the pillar of fire led Israel to the promised land. The light of the Risen Lord is then spread among the people as the individual candles are lit. Then the ancient Paschal proclamation, the first joyous song of Easter, is intoned.

**The Liturgy of the Word** is a time for hearing, meditating upon, and responding in song to the story of all God has done for God's people from the beginning. We are reminded that God's story is our story.

**The Liturgy of Holy Baptism (sunrise tomorrow)**, in which we not only celebrate with those who this night make their Passover from death to life in the life-giving waters, and with those who reaffirm their baptismal faith and join themselves with this Christian community, but in which we also renew our baptismal promises.

**The Liturgy of the Eucharist (sunrise tomorrow)**. Up to this time, the Vigil liturgy has been conducted in semi-darkness; now, the lights are raised, the last vestiges of Lent are removed, and we join in the Hymn of Praise, which has not been sung since the Sunday before Lent, thus restoring the joyful shout of "Alleluia!" In Holy Communion, we are called to the table where our Risen Lord himself comes to be truly present among God's people.

**This is the night in which  
heavenly things are  
united to those of earth  
and things divine to  
those which are human.  
Alleluia + Alleluia + Alleluia**



## LITURGY OF LIGHT

### **GATHERING**

*A fire has been prepared. Pastor brings the Paschal candle.*

### **APOSTOLIC 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.**

*Pastor waits until the fire is burning before praying.*

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*The inscription on the Paschal candle is traced.*

P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

*The Paschal candle is inscribed.*

P: Christ, yesterday and today,  
*The sign of the cross is traced.*

P: the beginning and the ending.  
*Greek letters Alpha and Omega are traced.*

P: To Christ belongs all time  
*The first numeral "2" is traced at the upper left.*

P: and all the ages.  
*The second numeral "0" is traced at the upper right.*

P: To Christ belongs glory and dominion  
*The third numeral "2" is traced at the lower left.*

P: now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*P: The fourth numeral "2" is traced at the lower left.*

*Pastor lights the Paschal candle using a stick or taper from the fire, and sings or says:*

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

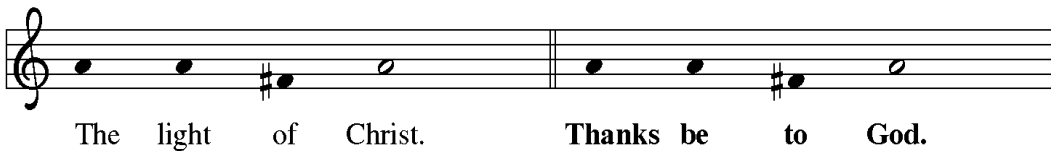
*Pastor lifts the candle so all may see it.*

## **PROCESSION**

*As the procession begins, we sing responsively:*



*Pastor lifts the Paschal candle, and we sing responsively:*



*Pastor takes the paschal candle to its stand, lifts it high, and we sing responsively:*



*Pastor places the Paschal candle in its stand.*

## **EASTER PROCLAMATION: "The Exalted"**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

*The assembly is seated and may extinguish hand-held candles.*

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

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

L: A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>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, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>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." <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was

evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>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.

<sup>26</sup>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."

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>8</sup>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." <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>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. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. <sup>4</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Time of meditation*

*Silence and prayer*

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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

L: A reading from Exodus.

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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? <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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."

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>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."

<sup>26</sup>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." <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>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.

<sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Time of meditation*

*Silence and prayer*

P: Let us pray. O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm, you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**



### **THIRD READING: Isaiah 55:1–11**

L: A reading from Isaiah.

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.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup>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,

<sup>11</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Time of meditation*

*Silence and prayer*

P: Let us pray. Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit.

**C: Amen.**

#### **FOURTH READING: Ezekiel 37:1–14**

L: A reading from Ezekiel.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on 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."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I

am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Time of meditation*

*Silence and prayer*

P: Let us pray. Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of word and sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **FIFTH READING: Jonah 1:1—2:1**

L: A reading from Jonah.

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup>Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me. <sup>3</sup>But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish."

<sup>7</sup>The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>Then they said to him, "Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is

your country? And of what people are you?" "I am a Hebrew," he replied. "I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."<sup>10</sup> Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them so.

<sup>11</sup> Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. <sup>12</sup> He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. <sup>14</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." <sup>15</sup> So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. <sup>16</sup> Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. <sup>17</sup> But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish. <sup>2</sup> I called to the LORD out of my distress, and you answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. <sup>3</sup> You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me.

[<sup>4</sup> Then I said, "I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?" <sup>5</sup> The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head <sup>6</sup> at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.]

<sup>7</sup> As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. <sup>8</sup> Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty. <sup>9</sup> But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the LORD!

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn: O Lord, Hear My Prayer**

O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer,  
When I call answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer,  
O Lord, hear my prayer,  
Come and listen to me.

*Silence and prayer*

P: Let us pray. O God of deliverance, you saved Jonah through the waters of death, and after three days you brought him to new life. Speak to us by this sign, and call us to repentance, that we may heed the voice of your Risen Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **SIXTH READING: Daniel 3:1–29**

L: A reading from Daniel.

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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire." <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup>They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. <sup>12</sup>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."

<sup>13</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. <sup>14</sup>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? <sup>15</sup>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. 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?"

<sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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."

<sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

<sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>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."

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Time of meditation*

*Silence and prayer*

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit, increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**



# LITANY OF SAINTS

*We sing responsively.*

## Litany of the Saints

Leader | Assembly

Lord, have mercy.      **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy.      **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.      **Lord, have mercy.**

Be gra - cious to us:      **Hear us, O God.**  
De - liv - er your people:      **Hear us, O God.**

You loved us before the world was made:      **Hear us, O God.**  
You rescued the people of your promise:      **Hear us, O God.**  
You spoke through your prophets:      **Hear us, O God.**  
You gave your only Son for the life of the world:      **Hear us, O God.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:      **Great is your love.**  
and was born of the vir - gin Mary:      **Great is your love.**  
who by his cross and suffering re - deemed the world:      **Great is your love.**  
and has washed us from our sins:      **Great is your love.**  
who on the third day rose from the dead:      **Great is your love.**  
and has given us the vic - to - ry:      **Great is your love.**  
who ascend - ed on high:      **Great is your love.**  
and intercedes for us at the right hand of God:      **Great is your love.**



For the gift of the Ho - ly Spirit: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For the one holy catholic and apos - tol - ic church: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For the great cloud of witnesses  
 into which we are bap - tized: **Thanks be to God.**

For Sarah and Abraham, Isaac and Re - bekah: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For Gideon and Deborah, Da - vid and Esther: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For Moses and Isaiah, Jeremi - ah and Daniel: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For Miriam and Rahab, Abi - gail and Ruth: **Thanks be to God.**

For Mary, mother of our Lord: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For John, who baptized in the Jordan: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For Mary Magdalene and Joanna, Ma - ry and Martha: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For James and John, Pe - ter and Andrew: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For Paul and Apollos, Ste - phen and Phoebe: **Thanks be to God.**

For all holy men and women,  
 our mothers and fa - thers in faith: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For the noble band of the prophets: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For the glorious company of the a - postles: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For the white-robed ar - my of martyrs: **Thanks be to God.**  
 For cherubim and seraphim,  
 Michael and the ho - ly angels: **Thanks be to God.**

Be - gra - cious to us: **Hear us, O God.**  
 De - liv - er your people: **Hear us, O God.**

Give new life to your servants by the grace of baptism: **Hear us, O God.**  
 Strengthen all who bear the sign of the cross: **Hear us, O God.**  
 Clothe us in compas - sion and love: **Hear us, O God.**  
 Bring us with all your saints to the riv - er of life: **Hear us, O God.**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Please join us tomorrow for Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus:**

<b>7 a.m.</b>	<b>Easter Vigil Part Two in the Memorial Garden</b>
<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>Easter breakfast in fellowship hall, Easter Egg Hunt outside</b>
<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Celebration worship in the sanctuary</b>





# Prayer List



Please remember in your prayers this week:

Jeff & Nancy Arntsen  
Anna Bancroft, 6 years old,  
friend of Alyene Weaver  
Chuck Banta  
Family & Friends of Kevin Beard  
Sean Brett, son of Alyene Weaver  
Tommy Bright  
Sandra Brinker  
Charles Budreau  
Dee Burlingame  
Michael O. Cannon, father of Kay Cannon  
Ray Collins, friend of Joan Zabor  
Cheryl Cook  
Joan Cotton  
Eloise Dettmer  
Elizabeth Farmer  
John Gallo, friend of April Shettler  
Andrea Gamboa  
Paula Haas, friend of Eloise Dettmer  
Elaine Graham  
Alyssa Hansen, cousin of Lisa Olsen  
Jeff Hansen, nephew of Joan Searles  
Christiana Holmes  
Kevin Hooks, son-in-law of  
Anita and Jon Wooton

Mary Janice Holt  
Jesus & Rita Jimenez  
Paul & Debby Maresch  
Alexis Martincek, 13 years old,  
friend of Heather Stuebe  
Kathryn McLaughlin  
Judi Melander  
Kristin Mohammed  
Jeremy & Yvonne Mullins  
Virginia Link-Pease, wife of James Pease  
Family & Friends of Synnove Pina  
Doris Anne Prieur-Lucia  
Fritz Rappold  
Gabriel Rockwell  
Family & Friends of Beverly Ryder  
Family & Friends of Dick Sanks  
Ken Schell, brother of Mike (Gwen) Schell  
Kathy Schilio  
Rev. John Spittal  
Family & Friends of Dieter Smirnow  
Dianne Stoll, friend of Dorothy Gustavson  
Cathy Stubenvoll  
Michelle Terrell, niece of Kay Cannon  
Colette Thornbloom  
Jon Wooton

**Jeremiah 29:12 "Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you."**

Contact the church office if:

- You or someone you know would like a **communion visit, hospital or home visit, or to be contacted.**
- You know of someone who would appreciate **receiving a card in the mail.**
- You would like to **serve as a Eucharistic Minister.**
- You have an addition to the Prayer List. Send an email with the individual's name to [officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com). Please send updates when prayers are answered.

## ABOUT US

Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others.

## OUR VISION

To be an ELCA congregation that displays the true, unending love of Christ. To promote peace, social justice and grace in all we do.

## THE ELCA

Faith Lutheran Church is part of the greater Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are ecumenical, saved by grace and love Jesus.

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