



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Truth – Relevance – Inspiration

Holy Saturday, April 16 at 4:00

**Participant
Version –
Includes the
Readings!**

Vigil of Easter – 2022



Today's service is **Vigil of Easter** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Altar Book, 529-551)

WELCOME TO DIVINE SERVICE: *We gather to receive God's gifts through Word and Sacrament!*

- ✦ **Visitors:** *Welcome! Please receive a visitor basket (available in our Narthex).*
- ✦ **Prayer Request:** *See a "yellow" card (Narthex).*
- ✦ **Young Children:** *Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).*
- ✦ **Phone:** *Please silence.*
- ✦ **Hearing Assistance:** *Available in Narthex.*
- ✦ **Not comfortable inside:** *Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9)*

All lights are off in the Chancel, Nave, and Narthex.
We all **gather** and **stand** in the Narthex.

VIGIL OF EASTER EXPLANATION:

L: The Vigil of Easter is normally celebrated later in the day on Holy Saturday to usher in the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. In some places throughout

the centuries of the Church's life, the people of God would **hold vigil**, which means **keep watch**, through the night in expectation of Christ's return.

While making a vigil through the night may not be common today, Christians nonetheless gather on Holy Saturday to wait in expectation for the news of Christ's resurrection and for His glorious return.

The Vigil of Easter includes Six Services:

1. Service of Light
2. Service of Readings
3. Service of Holy Baptism
4. Service of Prayer
5. Service of the Word
6. Service of the Sacrament

Today's service includes each of the six, *except for the Service of Prayer*; however, the Vigil of Easter includes many prayers.

1: SERVICE OF LIGHT



CB: The Christ Candle is held and lit in the Narthex.
The Service of Light begins in the Narthex.

- L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**
- L: Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which Our Lord Jesus passed over from death into life, we are gathered here in vigil and in prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, *by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments*, we share in His victory over death.
- L: Let us pray. 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 Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C: Amen.**
- L: Christ Jesus, †the same yesterday, today, and forever, †the beginning and the ending, †the Alpha and the Omega. His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever. By His wounds we have healing both now and forever.
- C: Amen.**
- L: May the light of Christ, *who is risen in glory from the dead*, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

L: Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith, *who share this night in 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.

C: Amen.

The Candle Bearer leads us into the Nave.

As you follow, enter a pew, and remain standing.

The Candle Bearer says **at the entrance:**

CB: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Candle Bearer says **in the middle of the Nave:**

CB: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Candle Bearer says **from the Chancel:**

CB: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Candle Bearer puts the Christ Candle in its stand.

L: Rejoice now, all you heav'nly 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.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

L: Let us pray. It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our ♦heart and ♦mind and ♦voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For 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.

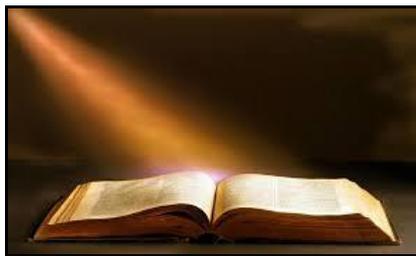
How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast.

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.

C: **Amen.** ↓

2: SERVICE OF READINGS



L: In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

FIRST READING – The Creation

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 NIV

CB: ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he 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 a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning-- the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. 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 vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights-- the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from 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 water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning-- the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their

kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground-- everything that has the breath of life in it-- I give every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning-- the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

CB: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

CB: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

SECOND READING – The Flood

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

L: ¹ The LORD then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. ² Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, ³ and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. ⁴ Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.”

⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him....

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month-- on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴ They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ The animals going in were

male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷ For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water....

^{8:6} After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark ⁷ and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. ⁹ But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰ He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. ¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. ¹² He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

¹³ By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ “Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷ Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you-- the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground-- so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it.”

¹⁸ So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives....

^{9:8} Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and

with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you-- the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you-- every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

THIRD READING – Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea Exodus 14:10 – 15:1 NIV

CB: ¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

¹³ Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the

deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. ¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, ²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³ The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. ²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. ²⁵ He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

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²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” ²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. ²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen-- the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

²⁹ But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. ³⁰ That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. ³¹ And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

^{15:1} Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: “I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.

CB: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

CB: Let us pray. O God, You once delivered Your people Israel 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.

C: **Amen.**

FOURTH READING – The Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-30 NIV

L: ¹ King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of

Babylon. ² He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up. ³ So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.

⁴ Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: ⁵ As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

⁷ Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “May the king live forever! ¹⁰ Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, ¹¹ and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. ¹² But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon-- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego-- who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”

¹³ Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king,

¹⁴ and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? ¹⁵ Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

²⁵ He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

3: SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM



L: On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead.

The apostle Paul says: *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now 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. For 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 (Romans 6:3-11 ESV).*

L: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all.

You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism.

Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die.

Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

L: Do you renounce the devil?

C: **Yes, I renounce him.**

L: Do you renounce all his works?

C: **Yes, I renounce them.**

L: Do you renounce all his ways?

C: **Yes, I renounce them.**

L: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

C: **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

C: **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, died and was 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 thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: **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.**

C: **Amen.**

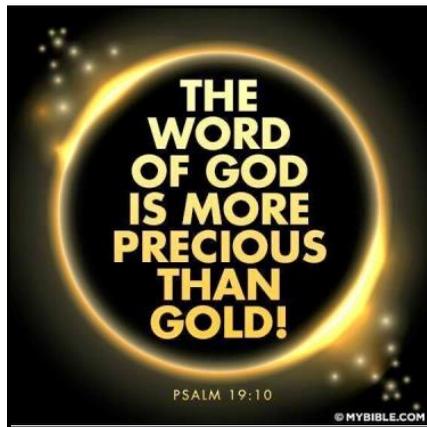
L: The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

L: Peace be with you.

C: **Amen.**

5: SERVICE OF THE WORD



EASTER ACCLAMATION:

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

CB: All lights in the Chancel and Nave are turned on.

↑ HYMN OF PRAISE: *This Is the Feast*

See the words below / LSB 155

Refrain: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia.

1. Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. **Refrain**
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. **Refrain**
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men. **Refrain**
4. For the Lamb_____ who was slain__ has be - gun his reign. Al-le-lu-----ia. **Refrain**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY:

L: The LORD be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8 NIV

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O LORD.

¹ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" ⁸ Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. ↓

SUPPER PREPARATION

Offering: A plate is available in the center aisle.

6: SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

- ➔ **Regular Attenders:** Examine yourself below, agree, and receive. To better understand the examination, *see a New Visitors brochure!*
- ➔ **Others:** Read the Lord's Supper section in our New Visitors brochure, agree, and receive **or** come forward to receive a spoken blessing.

LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION:

"...a man must examine himself" (1 Cor. 11:28 NAU).

1. I believe the Bible is God's Word!
2. I am baptized (*God clothed me in Christ and I still am!*)
3. I am sorry for my sins!
4. I believe in Jesus for eternal life!
5. I desire to live for Christ!
6. I believe the Lord's Supper is Jesus' very body and blood, along with the bread and wine, to assure me of God's forgiveness!

↑ LORD'S PRAYER: *See back of either hymnal*

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A: Our Father who art in heaven...

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD: *Spoken on the evening before He finished His saving work!*

PAX DOMINI: *The Peace of the Lord*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI: *Lamb of God*

See the words below / LSB 550

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!

O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS:

- Receiving at your pew: Please inform an usher.
- Alcohol-Removed Wine: Center of each tray.
- After the Agnus Dei: Come forward to the railing.
- Receive. Go in peace. Return via the side aisle.
- Main dismissal: After everyone has returned.

DURING DISTRIBUTION: Silence and Reflection

LORD'S SUPPER DISMISSAL

COLLECT:

L: Let us pray. 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The almighty and merciful Lord – *the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit* – bless and preserve you.

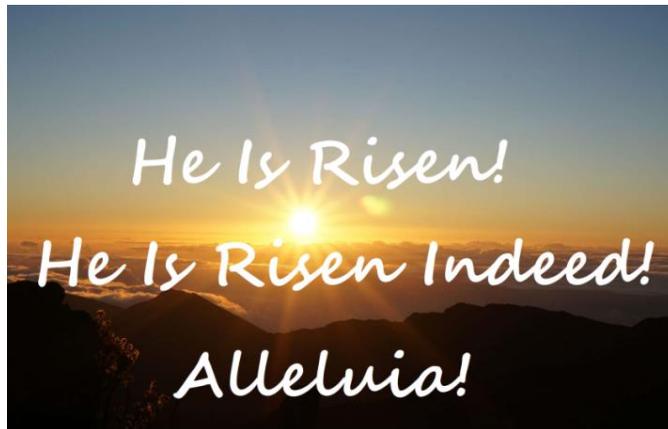
C: Amen.

Join Us on Easter Sunday

Divine Service at 9:00
Easter Breakfast at 10:30

Thanks for Serving

Candle Bearer: Ken Hinkle
Smart Recorder: Kathy Green



Connect With Us

➔ **Website:** www.blc7500.com ➔ **YouTube:** Benefit from the Bible ➔ **Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible

Facebook: "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"

Address: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

Church Office: Wed. & Thu. – 9:30 to 4; Sat., 2 to 6

Kathy Green: Secretary@blc7500.com; 440-845-2230

Childcare Center: Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00

Tricia Wise: ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com; 440-884-0430

Pastor Green: RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915

Church Body: lcms.org District: oh.lcms.org