



The
LORD
is my
strength
and my
might;
he has
become my
salvation.

Psalm 118:14, NRSV



Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

Easter Vigil

Saturday April 19, 2025

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Invitation

- P** 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.

Collect

- P** 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Blessing of the Paschal Candle

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

Collect

P Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us your abundant blessing that all who in true faith 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.

G Amen.

All light their candles from the paschal candle and follow the candle bearer in procession into the darkened church.

When all have processed, the bearer of the paschal candle lifts the paschal candle high.

Exsultet

P Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

The Paschal candle is placed in its stand.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P 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.

L *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.*

C **This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality.**

P This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead.

L *The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night.*

C **Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave you gave your Son.**

P How holy is this night when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away.

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

C **How blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ.**

P 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.**

All extinguish their candles.

Sit

Introduction to Readings

P In the Gospels according to Matthew and Mark, we hear this after Jesus institutes the New Covenant in the Lord's Supper: "When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." The Greek verb here actually says "having hymned." It does not indicate that they sang only one Psalm. What is most likely is that they sang the series of Psalms that are called the "Egyptian Hallel" or the "Passover Hallel." This series of six Psalms - Psalms 113-118 - are traditionally used during Passover to remember God's rescue of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and from death at the hands of the Egyptian army at the Sea of Reeds. Tonight, as we anticipate the inauguration of God's resurrection life for us in Jesus the risen Messiah, we recall the story of the Exodus and reflect on these Psalms and their proclamation of God's triumph.

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-16, 14:26-15:1

L A reading from Exodus.

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.

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.

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P 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.

Psalm

Psalm 113

L Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,

C praise the name of the LORD!

L Blessed be the name of the LORD,

C from this time forth and forevermore!

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the LORD is to be praised!

L The LORD is high above all nations,
C and his glory above the heavens!
L Who is like the LORD our God,
C who is seated on high,
L who looks far down
C on the heavens and the earth?
L He raises the poor from the dust
C and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
L to make them sit with princes,
C with the princes of his people.
L He gives the barren woman a home,
C making her the joyous mother
of children.

Homiletic Comment

Psalm

Psalm 114

L When Israel went out from Egypt,
C the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
L Judah became his sanctuary,
C Israel his dominion.
L The sea looked and fled;
C Jordan turned back.
L The mountains skipped like rams,
C the hills like lambs.
L What ails you, O sea, that you flee?
C O Jordan, that you turn back?
L O mountains, that you skip like rams?
C O hills, like lambs?
L Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
C at the presence of the God of Jacob,
L who turns the rock into a pool of water,
C the flint into a spring of water.

Homiletic Comment

Psalm

Psalm 115

L Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,

C for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

L Why should the nations say,

C “Where is their God?”

L Our God is in the heavens;

C he does all that he pleases.

L Their idols are silver and gold,

C the work of human hands

L They have mouths, but do not speak;

C eyes, but do not see.

L They have ears, but do not hear;

C noses, but do not smell.

L They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk;

C and they do not make a sound in their throat.

L Those who make them become like them;

C so do all who trust in them.

L O Israel, trust in the LORD!

C He is their help and their shield.

L O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD!

C He is their help and their shield.

L You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!

C He is their help and their shield.

L The Lord has remembered us; he will bless us;

C he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;

L he will bless those who fear the LORD,

C both the small and the great.

L May the LORD give you increase,

C you and your children!

L May you be blessed by the LORD,

C who made heaven and earth!

L The heavens are the LORD’s heavens,

C but the earth he has given to the children of man.

L The dead do not praise the LORD,

C nor do any who go down into silence.

L But we will bless the Lord

C from this time forth and forevermore.

Homiletic Comment

Psalm

Psalm 116

I love the LORD, because he has heard
 my voice and my pleas for mercy.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
 therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
 the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
 I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the LORD:
 “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
 our God is merciful.
The LORD preserves the simple;
 when I was brought low, he saved me.
Return, O my soul, to your rest;
 for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
For you have delivered my soul from death,
 my eyes from tears,
 my feet from stumbling;
I will walk before the LORD
 in the land of the living.
I believed, even when I spoke,
 “I am greatly afflicted”;
I said in my alarm,
 “All mankind are liars.”
What shall I render to the LORD
 for all his benefits to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
 and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD
 in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD
 is the death of his saints.
O LORD, I am your servant;
 I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
 You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
 and call on the name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Homiletic Comment

Psalm

Psalm 117

- L** Praise the Lord, all nations!
- C** Extol him, all peoples!
- L** For great is his steadfast love toward us,
- C** and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Homiletic Comment

Psalm

Psalm 118

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
Let the house of Aaron say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.
The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?
The LORD is on my side as my helper;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in man.
It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.
All nations surrounded me;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!

They surrounded me like bees;
they went out like a fire among thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.
Glad songs of salvation
are in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,
the right hand of the LORD exalts,
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
The LORD has disciplined me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
The LORD is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,
up to the horns of the altar!
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

you are my God; I will extol you.
Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Homiletic Comment

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

LSB 791

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, his praise forthtell;
Come ye before him and rejoice.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.
- 3 O enter then his gates with praise;
Approach with joy his courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
- 4 For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure.
- 5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

Baptismal Address

- P** 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?
- C** 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.

P 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.

C **Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.**

P 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.

The Flood Prayer

P 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.

Renunciation

P Do you renounce the devil?

C Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?

C Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways?

C Yes, I renounce them.

Profession of Faith

P 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.

P 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.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The congregation is invited to approach the font to receive a reminder of their baptism.

Collect

P 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.

Litany of the Resurrection

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

I Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C hear us.

II Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,

C have mercy on us.

I Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,

C have mercy on us.

II Who foretold your passion saying, "The Son of Man must be crucified and on the third day rise again,"

C have mercy on us.

I Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life again brought life and immortality to light,

C have mercy on us.

II Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,

C have mercy on us.

I Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,

C have mercy on us.

II Who revealed yourself to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and made yourself known to them in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread,

C have mercy on us.

I Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them your peace and your Spirit,

C have mercy on us.

II Who showed your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,

C have mercy on us.

I Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,

C have mercy on us.

II Who appeared to Peter and to the Twelve, to over 500 disciples, to James and to all the apostles, and to Paul on the Damascus road,

C have mercy on us.

I Who commissioned your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,

C have mercy on us.

II By your glorious resurrection from the dead,

C good Lord, deliver us.

I By your victory over sin and death,

C good Lord, deliver us.

II By the majesty of your risen body,

C good Lord, deliver us.

I We poor sinners implore you

C to hear us, Lord Jesus.

II That we may daily die and rise with you in our Baptism and walk in the freedom of your forgiveness,

C grant us, good Lord.

I That we may set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, serving as we have been served by you,

C grant us, good Lord.

II That we may dwell with you forever in the new creation as citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, together with all the saints,

C grant us, good Lord.

I Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy on us.

II Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy on us.

I Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the

world,

C grant us your peace.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

Easter Acclamation

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

I Know That My Redeemer Lives *LSB 461 sts. 1–2, 7–8*

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they

entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” ⁸ Then they remembered his words. ⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Blessing

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

C Amen.

The Paschal Candle

The Paschal candle is a large white candle used throughout the Easter season and then throughout the year on special occasions such as baptisms and confirmation.

The flame of the Paschal candle symbolizes the presence of Christ, light of the world in the midst of his people. The Paschal candle is sometimes referred to as the Easter candle.

The lighting of the paschal candle is one of the most solemn moments of the Easter Vigil service. This candle is traditionally the one from which all other lights are taken for the Easter service.

This candle is also lit during baptisms to signify the Holy Spirit

and fire that John the Baptist promised to those who were baptized in Christ.

The Paschal candle has been used in Lutheran services off and on since the Reformation.

For more information Google Paschal candle - Lutheran Liturgy.



SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd
Ham Lake, MN 55304
www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org

Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people,
proclaiming, and sharing the love of Christ.

Church Office: 763-755-7234
Pastor Jason Neel: soclcpastor@gmail.com
Ministers: All Members
Music Director
John Peterson: carsinger@aol.com
Office e-mail: secretary@soclc.org
Prayer Chain (Sue
Hurst): Sd_hurst@yahoo.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofChristLutheran.LCMS>