



# **Resurrection of Our Lord: Vigil of Easter**

University Lutheran Church  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

30 March 2024 at 9:00 p.m.

## GATHERING

*On the front steps of the church. A fire has been lit.*

### GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

Siblings in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Let us pray.

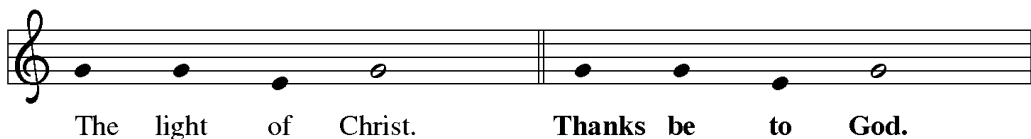
Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The paschal candle is lit from the fire and is marked with the symbols of the year.*

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

### PROCESSION

*The people's candles are all lighted. The procession begins.*



*The procession continues, stopping at the entrance to the church.*



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

*The procession concludes at the entrance to the Alumni room..*



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

## EASTER PROCLAMATION


Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

...


Let this place resound with joy,  
echoing the mighty song of all God's people.



Leader Assembly  
The Lord be with you. And also with you.



Leader  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Assembly  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain,  
by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the night  
*(the assembly repeats in song:)* **This is the night**  
in which, in ancient times,  
you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,  
and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.

This is the night  
**This is the night**

in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of  
sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.

This is the night  
**This is the night**  
in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.

Therefore, in this night of grace,

...

For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants,  
have made for the substance of this candle.

This is the night  
**This is the night**  
in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O God,

...

through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Creation**

“Creation” by James Weldon Johnson , read by Chris Pollari

Silence, followed by prayer. **Amen.**

### **SECOND READING: Flood**

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

read by Ricardo A. Pulgar on Zoom

Reflection: “I Think It’s Going to Rain Today” sung by MC Miller

Silence, followed by prayer. **Amen**

### **THIRD READING: Deliverance at the Red Sea, read by Stephen Deets**

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Reflection by Amanda Wiederoder

Silence, followed by prayer. **Amen.**

# CONGREGATIONAL SONG ELW 459

## Wade in the Water

*Refrain*

All



Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,



wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader

All



- 1 See that host all dressed in white,
- 2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the
- 3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
- 4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.  
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.  
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.  
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All

*Refrain*



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

**FOURTH READING: Salvation freely offered to all**

Isaiah 55:1-11, read by Kenton Goldsby

Reflection by Kenton Goldsby

Silence, followed by prayer...**Amen**

**FIFTH READING: The valley of the dry bones**

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Chanted by Kristine Richter

Silence, followed by prayer....**Amen**

Musical Reflection: “Ain’t No Grave Can Hold My Body Down”

**SIXTH READING: Deliverance from the fiery furnace**

Daniel 3:1-30 Interactive reading by Carrie Ballenger

The assembly is invited to play their rhythm instruments every time they hear the phrase: ***“horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble”***

## PROCESSION TO THE BAPTISMAL FONT



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Se - ñor.  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional  
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

*The assembly is gathered around the font.*

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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;  
who descended into hell.  
And on the third day rose again;  
who ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
who will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*The people process to the chancel while singing.*

# I'm Going on a Journey



1 I'm go-ing on a jour-ney, and I'm start-ing to-day. My



head is wet, and I'm on my way. Christ's mark is on me;



it's on you, too; it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!



2 I'm be-com-ing this day a saint of God. It



real-ly does-n't mat-ter what roads I trod. Wher-ev-er I go, God's



been there, too. God's love has touched me and will car-ry me through.



3 There are oth-er saints who have said a-men. They'll



keep me faith-ful to my jour-ney's end. A - long the way



I want to be the kind of per-son that God set free.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING Romans 6:3-11

read by K.C. Kohler

<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174 “Celtic Alleluia”

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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## GOSPEL John 20:1-18

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

<sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

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

<sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

<sup>13</sup>They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).

<sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

<sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## **THE PASCHAL SERMON OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (347-407)**

### **PEACE**

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

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Faithful God,  
you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us in this meal,  
that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **THE MEAL**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of



pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est. Blessed is the One who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

The presider may invite the assembly to join in proclaiming the mystery of faith with these or similar words:

“... we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as “Abba,” Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.*

It shall always gladden God’s heart whenever we pray:

**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and  
forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO RECEIVE AND SHARE COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God’s table!

The Body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**



## HYMN DURING COMMUNION ELW 379

### Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**      ELW 376 “Thine is the Glory”

**DISMISSAL** Alleluia, Go in peace!. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God!**

Many people in our community already give on-line. Visit [www.unilu.org/giving](http://www.unilu.org/giving) if you would like to set up electronic funds transfer or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to 66 Winthrop Street, Cambridge, MA, 02138; there may be a slight delay in processing donations received by mail. **To make a one-time donation by phone (Google or Apple Pay, Venmo, PayPal, or credit card), you may also visit <https://givebutter.com/university-lutheran-church> or scan the QR code.**



## Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

### *Refrain*



where thy bod - y lay.  
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed.**  
**Alleluia!**

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY:

Carrie Ballenger, *Pastor*

Gracious Moyo, *Associate Pastor*

K.C.Kohler, *Church Administrator*

Lorraine Fitzmaurice, *Music Director – Choir*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director – Organ*

MC Miller, *Communications Coordinator*

Jessica Chicka, *University Chaplain – Boston University*

Brian Tracey, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

Welcome to University Lutheran Church, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston – and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).

***Land Acknowledgment:*** *University Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket and Massa-adchu-es-et (Massachusetts) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called, and who continue to call, this land their home.*