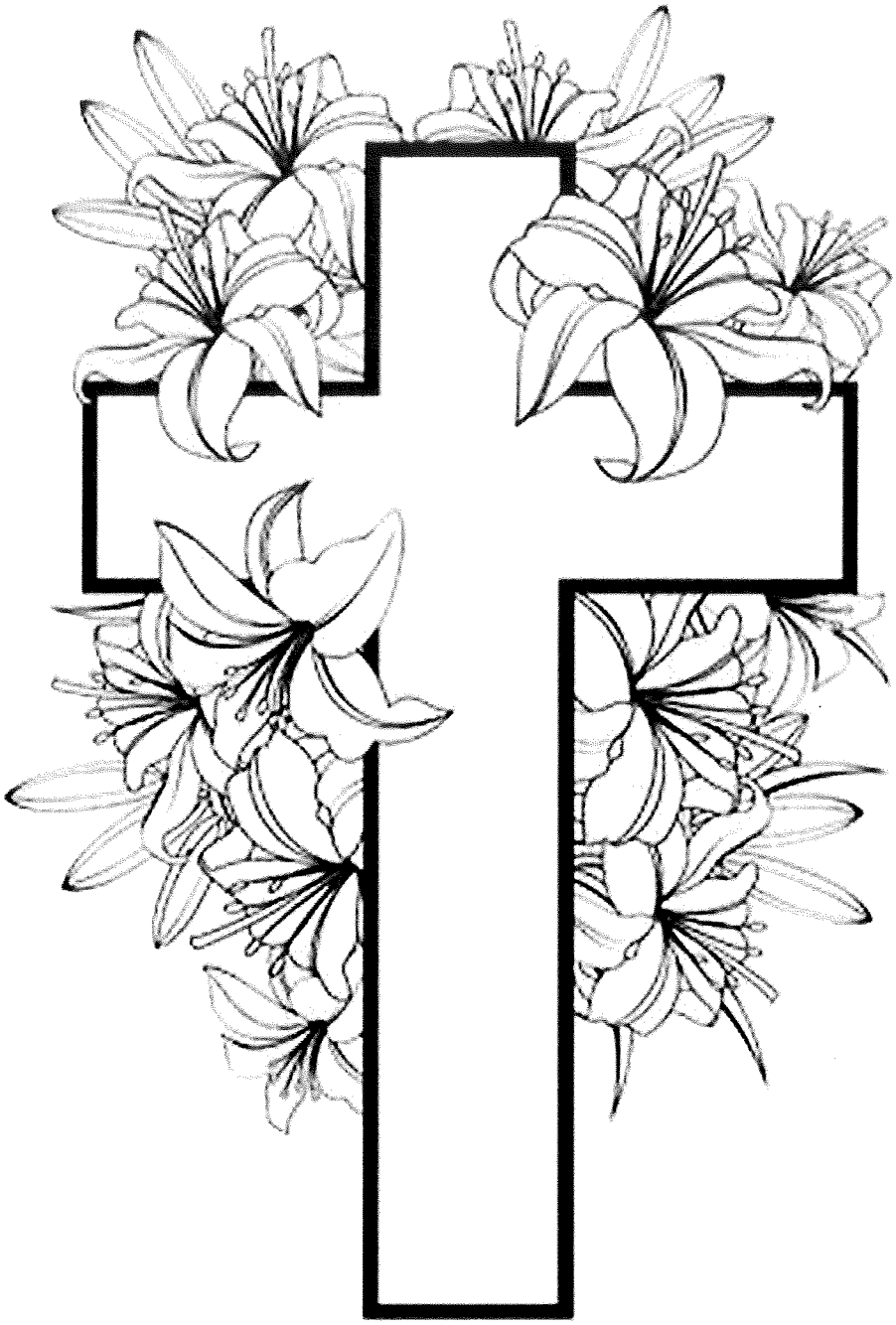
Zion Lutheran Church & School

1301 N. State, Litchfield IL



Easter Vigil

Saturday April 16, 2022

5:30 p.m.

All enter in silence

Due to the solemnity of our worship, the offerings will be gathered at the door.

RINGING OF THE WORSHIP BELL

SERVICE OF LIGHT

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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. 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.

P: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever,

C: the beginning and the ending,

P: the Alpha and the Omega. His are time and eternity;

C: His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

P: By His wounds we have healing

C: both now and forever. Amen.

The paschal candle is lit.

P: May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds. Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: The Light of Christ

C: Thanks be to God

P: In this most holy night our Savior, Jesus Christ, 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.

HYMN LSB 839 *"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"*

1 O Christ, our true and only light, enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice and in Your fold with us rejoice.

2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace the souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

3 O gently call those gone astray that they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed in You find peace and heav'nly rest.

4 Shine on the darkened and the cold; recall the wand'rers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart; confirm the weak and doubting heart,

5 That they with us may evermore such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to You be giv'n by all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

SERVICE OF READINGS

The Creation: Genesis 1:26 - 2:3

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.
P: 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, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C: Amen.

The Flood: Genesis 7: 11–18; 8: 13–18; 9 :8–13

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**
P: 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.

The Testing of Abraham: Genesis 22:1–18

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: O God, since You promised faithful Abraham that he would be the father of a great multitude, You provided a substitute for his son Isaac. In the fullness of time, You sent Your Son, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, to lay down His life that we might live as faithful children of Abraham. Grant to all people a living trust in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN LSB 819 *"Sing Praise to God the Highest Good"*

1 Sing praise to God, the highest good, the author of creation, the God of love who understood our need for His salvation. With healing balm our souls He fills and ev'ry faithless murmur stills: to God all praise and glory!

2 What God's almighty pow'r has made, in mercy He is keeping. By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping. Within the kingdom of His might all things are just and good and right: to God all praise and glory!

3 We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us. Our Savior saw our helplessness and came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, Who is by one and all adored: to God all praise and glory!

4 He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation; He is their refuge and their rock, their peace and their salvation. As with a mother's tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

5 All who confess Christ's holy name, give God the praise and glory. Let all who know His pow'r proclaim aloud the wondrous story. Cast ev'ry idol from its throne, for God is God, and He alone: to God all praise and glory!

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea: Exodus 14:10—15:1

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: 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.

Salvation Offered Freely to All: Isaiah 55: 1-11

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Almighty God, by Your Word You created and sustain all things, and by Your Spirit You renew Your creation. Grant now the water of life to all who thirst for You that they may bring forth abundant fruit in Your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A New Heart and a New Spirit: Ezekiel 36:24-28

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, by the death and resurrection of Your Son You cleansed our hearts and put a new Spirit within us. Grant that all who are brought to newness of life in the fellowship of the body of Christ may show forth in their lives what they confess with their lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Valley of Dry Bones: Ezekiel 37:1-14

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: O God, Your Son came as the Son of Man to breathe His Word and Spirit upon the dry, dead bones of Adam's children. Grant that we may hear Your holy Word, receive Your Holy Spirit, and rise each day from the death of sin to live in newness of life before You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN LSB 501 *"Come Down, O Love Divine"*

1 Come down, O Love divine; seek Thou this soul of mine, and visit it with Thine own ardor glowing; O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear, and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn, till worldly passions turn to dust and ashes in its heat consuming; and let Thy glorious light shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3 Let holy charity mine outward vesture be and lowliness become mine inner clothing—true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part, and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long, shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling; no soul can guess His grace till it become the place wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

Job Confesses the Redeemer: Job 19:20-27

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Almighty God, our great Redeemer, in the sacrifice of Your Son You put to death our wretched flesh and in His rising restored our life. Grant that we may always cling to Christ by faith in this life that at the last we may rejoice to stand in our own flesh and see Your face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Jonah Preaches to Nineveh: Jonah 3:1-10

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: O God, as the Prophet Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish, so Your Son, Jesus, spent three days in the heart of the earth. Grant us repentance to embrace our death in Him through Holy Baptism and to proclaim His victory over sin and death to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Gathering of God's People: Zephaniah 3:12-20

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Look in mercy, O Lord, upon Your faithful people, and by Word and Spirit bring to completion that good work which You have begun in us. Gather in Your people that all the world may see and know that what has been cast down is raised up and what has grown old is made new, until the work You have begun in us is brought to its joyful fulfillment in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH – NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERVICE OF PRAYER

P: O Lord,
C: have mercy.
P: O Christ,
C: have mercy.
P: O Lord,
C: have mercy.
P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C: hear us.
P: Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world,
C: have mercy on us.
P: Who was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification,
C: have mercy on us.
P: Who destroyed death by dying, and by rising to life brought life and immortality to light,
C: have mercy on us.
P: Whose resurrection was first announced by an angel to the women,
C: have mercy on us.
P: Who appeared to Mary Magdalene and was worshiped by her,
C: have mercy on us.
P: 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.

P: Who appeared to the disciples, bestowing on them Your peace and Your Spirit,
C: have mercy on us.
P: Who showed Your wounded hands and side to the apostle Thomas that he too might believe,
C: have mercy on us.
P: Who appeared to seven disciples on the Sea of Tiberias, bringing a miraculous catch of fish,
C: have mercy on us.
P: 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.
P: Who commissioned Your Church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them,
C: have mercy on us.
P: Your glorious resurrection from the dead,
C: good Lord, deliver us.
P: Your victory over sin and death,
C: good Lord, deliver us.
P: By the majesty of Your risen body,
C: good Lord, deliver us.
P: We poor sinners implore You
C: to hear us, Lord Jesus.
P: 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.
P: 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.
P: 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.
P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: have mercy on us.
P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: have mercy on us.
P: 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE LSB 155 *"This is the Feast (The Alleluia banner is returned)*

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Refrain ***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing and glory are His. *Refrain*

3 Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation: *Refrain*

4 Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

5 For the Lamb who was slain
has begun His reign. *Refrain*

Easter Acclamation

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
P: 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 16:1—8*

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

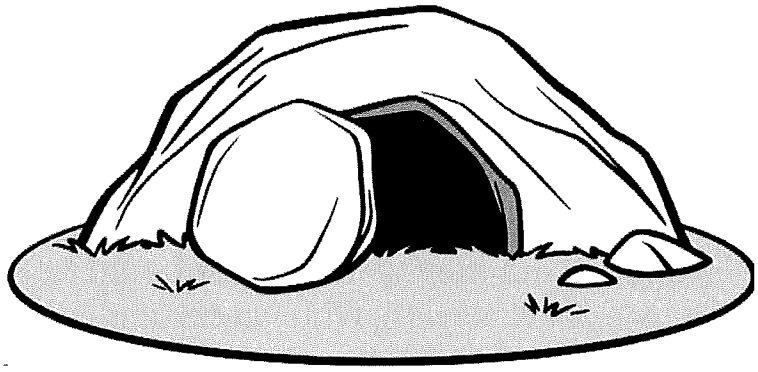
LSB 482 *"This Joyful Eastertide"*

1 This joyful Eastertide away with sin and sorrow! My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow. Refrain.

Refrain Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst His three-day prison, our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen; but now has Christ arisen!

2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river; lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. Refrain.

3 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number



LSB 461 *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"*

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.

3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above; He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

4 He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye; He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears; He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

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!

POST-COMMUNION HYMN LSB 488 *"He is Arisen! Glorious Word"*

1 He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord; the gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus did triumphant die, and Satan's arrows broken lie, destroyed hell's fiercest weapon. O hear what cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious, life is giving. He was dead but now is living!

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

DEPARTURE HYMN LSB 457 *"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"*

1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia! Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured; Alleluia! Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia! Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!