



**MORRISON  
ZION  
LUTHERAN**  
Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to  
**Glorify God**  
as we  
**Gather**  
around the Gospel  
to help people  
**Grow**  
in the **Gospel**  
and  
**Go**  
with the **Gospel**

**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

March 30, 2024  
**Easter Vigil**



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**The Triduum** (TRID-oo-um, “three days”) refers to the time from worship on Maundy Thursday until the final worship of Easter Day. The “Three Holy Days” of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire church year. It is over these days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter – that we celebrate God’s redeeming love in the dying and rising of his Son, Jesus, and still see that love today. The Triduum is a single celebration. Once we have begun the Triduum on Maundy Thursday, we do not “leave” it until Easter Sunday. It is one continuous celebration of dying and rising, with Christ.

**Easter Vigil** In the early church the Easter Vigil was when the catechumens were baptized and received their first Communion. Baptism remains a central focus in the Vigil today. Even when there are no baptisms the congregation takes the time to remember their own baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection. The service traditionally was held late at night so that the pastor’s statement, “Alleluia! Christ is Risen” and the people’s response would be at midnight.

**Service of Light** The congregation gathers in entry. Those who do not wish to process into the church may be seated. Those processing are given candles to be lit later from the paschal candle. The paschal candle is a sign of the presence of the risen Christ among us.

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*Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.*

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## SERVICE OF LIGHT

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

**C: Amen.**

M: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we are gathered here in vigil and 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.

M: O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people with the fire of your love. Bless, we ask you, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival. Burning with desire for life with you, may we 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.**

*The candlebearer presents the paschal candle.*

M: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. His are time and eternity; his are the glory and dominion now and forever. By his wounds we are healed now and forever.

*As the paschal candle is lit from the final candle of the Tenebrae service, the minister says:*

M: May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

M: Almighty and most merciful Father, once we were darkness, but now we are light in Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless abundantly all who joyfully celebrate this night in faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill them with your heavenly blessing in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

All light their candles from the paschal candle. Then, the paschal candle held by the candlebearer, all follow in procession into the dark church.

As the procession begins, the candlebearer holds the paschal candle aloft, pauses and says:

M: The light of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Halfway to the altar, the candlebearer pauses and says the second time:

M: The light of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

When the candlebearer arrives before the altar, he faces the congregation, lifts the candle, and says the third time:

M: The light of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The candlebearer places the paschal candle in its stand in the center of the chancel. Standing in its light the minister or an assistant sings or says:

# Exsultet

solo

1 Ex - ult, O an - gel ar - mies, You  
 2 Ex - ult, O earth, in glad - ness, All  
 3 Ex - ult, O Church, in glo - ry. O

war - ri - ors of light. Sound forth the gold - en  
 flood - ed now with light, A - blaze with warmth and  
 Bride, now see your Groom Like light - ning in the

trum - pet To end the dark - est night. Pro -  
 glo - ry That puts the gloom to flight. Be -  
 heav - ens Has left be - hind his tomb. Be -

claim with fear - less voic - es The tri - umph of our  
 sure, O earth - ly crea - tures; All mor - tals, learn this  
 hold, he now has clothed you In daz - zling splen - dor

King. Re - joice, O host of heav - en; A  
 well: The King of all the ag - es Has  
 bright; Ex - changed your rags of mourn - ing For

new song to him sing: "The Lamb, once slain, is  
 smashed the gates of hell. From dust he has a -  
 roy - al robes of white. So thun - der now, God's

liv - ing! To him be strength and praise! The  
 ris - en; In flesh im - mor - tal stands, With  
 peo - ple, And shake the walls with song. Your

Li - on of sal - va - tion Shall reign for end - less days!"  
 light and life and glo - ry For all the tribes and lands.  
 King has con - quer'd dark - ness, And right - ed ev' - ry wrong.

Text: Benjamin Radtke Tune: THAXTED

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places, with all our hearts and minds and voices, praise you, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, and your one and only Son, Jesus Christ.

**C: For he is the true Paschal Lamb, who offered himself for the sin of the world, who cleansed us by the shedding of his precious blood.**

M: 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.**

M: 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 the 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.**

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

**C: How holy is this day when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast.**

M: How blessed is this 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.**

*Be seated*

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## SERVICE OF LESSONS

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The congregation extinguishes its candles. A few lights in the nave may be turned on.

**M:** On 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 on those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

### Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:3

**M:** Let us pray.

**C:** Almighty God, you most wonderfully created human nature and yet more wonderfully redeemed it. By your mercy renew us in the image of him who came to share our humanity, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-15:1

**M:** Let us pray.

**C:** O God, you once delivered your people Israel from slavery under Pharaoh and led them safely through the Red Sea. By this you gave us a picture of Baptism. Lead us always to rejoice in your baptismal promise, that we may live in its grace and declare to all people your desire to make them children of Abraham, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Hymn

*The Song of Moses CWS 786*

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: The Lord is our strength; The Lord is our song; the Lord is our salvation. Who is like you, O Lord our God, Majestic and holy, radiant in glory, Working wonders for your

peo - ple? You have brought us through  
 wa - ter, through death un - to  
 life, Re - deemed by your might - y  
 hand. The Lord is our strength; The  
 Lord is our song; the Lord is our sal -  
 va - tion. Your un - fail - ing love  
 has shat - tered all our foes,  
 Cast down those who stand a - gainst your name.  
 Na - tions shake with fear as you  
 lead your peo - ple to your ho - ly dwell - ing. And  
 there for - ev - er on the moun - tain of the Lord Your

Musical notation for the hymn, consisting of three staves of music in G major. The lyrics are: "peo - ple will live and re - joice: The Lord is our strength; The Lord is our song; the Lord is our sal - va - tion."

Text: Exodus 15; Paraphrase Keith Wessel, b. 1965.  
Tune: © 2006 Lynn L. Petersen, b. 1962. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### Salvation Offered Freely To All

Isaiah 55:1-11

M: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, you created and sustained all things by the power of your Word. You send forth your Spirit to renew your creation. Give your saving water of life to all who thirst, that they may bear much fruit in your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Faith Strained But Victorious

Job 19:20-27

M: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son, you brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death to life. Give your servants patience and endurance that, looking in faith to your Son, we may see beyond the trials of this life to the joys of the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Stand*

The hymn is sung as the paschal candle is carried to the font.



# Hymn

## Let All Things Now Living CW 260



1 Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks-giv - ing  
2 His law he en - forc - es; The stars in their cours - es



To God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
And sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine.



Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,  
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,



Who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
The deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us; His light goes be - fore us,  
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing.



A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



Till shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is ban - ished,  
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing:



As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
"To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt. © 1939. Renewed 1966 by E. C. Schirmer Music Co. (admin. ECS Publishing). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE (66 11 66 11 D) Welsh folk tune.



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## SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

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M: On this holiest of days, the whole church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls his death and burial, rejoicing in the gospel of his glorious resurrection from the dead. Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul says,

“Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God, In the same way count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus”



## Hymn

## All Who Believe and Are Baptized CW 299

1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized Shall see the  
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us your  
Lord's sal - va - tion; Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ,  
Ho - ly Spir - it. Help us in our in - firm - i - ty  
They are a new cre - a - tion. Through Christ's  
Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it. Grant us  
re - demp - tion they shall stand A - mong the glo - rious,  
to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -  
heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860-1942, alt.  
Tune: ES IST DAS HEIL (87 87 887) *Etlich Cristlich lider*, Wittenberg, 1524, alt.

If there are candidates for Holy Baptism, they gather at the font. After the baptisms, the Vigil continues with the Service of Holy Communion.

If there are no candidates for Holy Baptism, the congregation joins in the following renunciation and profession of faith as a remembrance of their baptisms.

*Stand*

**M:** In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives us new life in Christ our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**C:** Yes, and I ask God to help me.

**M:** Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

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

M: 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

M: 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. Amen.**

M: Do you intend to continue in this faith, to be diligent in the use of Word and sacrament and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

**C: Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

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

**C: Amen.**

The paschal candle is returned to its stand.

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## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

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The altar candles are lit from the paschal candle. The lights of the church are fully lit, the bells may be rung, and the minister proclaims:

M: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

*Refrain*

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.  
This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Refrain*

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**Gospel**

**Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

*Refrain*

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**Prayer of the Day**

M: O God, who made this most holy night shine with the glory of the resurrection of our Lord, preserve in all your people the Spirit of adoption which you have given, that they may serve you in faith and joy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## 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.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

## Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

## Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymn

*Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* CW 142



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant  
2 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is  
3 But to - day a - mong his own Christ ap - peared, be -



glad - ness! God has brought his Is - ra - el  
fly - ing From his light, to whom we give  
stow - ing Bless - ed peace, which ev - er - more



In - to joy from sad - ness. See the spring of  
Laud and praise un - dy - ing. Nei - ther could the  
Pass - es hu - man know - ing. Come, you faith - ful,



souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on And from  
gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal Nor the  
raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness! God has



three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en.  
watch - ers nor the seal Hold him as a mor - tal.  
brought his Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness.

## Distribution Hymn

*The Day of Resurrection* CW 166



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil That we may see a - right  
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful; Let earth her song be - gin.



The Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The Pass - o - ver of God.  
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light  
Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, From this world to the sky,  
And, lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;



Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.  
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.  
For Christ the Lord has ris - en; Our joy shall have no end.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Tune: LANCASHIRE (76 76 D) Henry T. Smart, 1813–79.

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## THANKSGIVING

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Stand

### Thank The Lord



**C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.**



**Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.**



**He re - news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with**



**shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!**

M: Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Be Seated*

The Vigil service traditionally does not include a benediction.

## Closing Hymn

*Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won* CW 145:4,5

4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing  
5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the

me from him shall sev - er, Life nor death nor  
gate to life im - mor - tal; This shall calm my

pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ for -  
trem - bling breath When I pass its gloom - y

ev - er. God will be a sure de - fense;  
por - tal. Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:

This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
"Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!"

Text: Christian F. Gellert, 1715–69, abr.; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1815–97, alt.  
Tune: JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT (78 78 77) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

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**Offerings** may be placed in the baskets in the back of church as you leave.

**The Three Holy Days** continues on Sunday. Festival worship will be at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Communion will be a part of worship at both services.

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