



# The Great Vigil of Easter

We gather this evening to celebrate and proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**P** = Pastor    **C** = Congregation    **L** = Leader

## Service of Light

*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

**L** May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

**L** The light of Christ! **C** Thanks be to God!

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*Please be seated.*

## Easter Proclamation

**L** Rejoice, now, all heavenly choirs of angels,  
 and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;  
 and, for the victory of so great a King, sound the trumpet of salvation.  
 Exult, also, O earth, enlightened with such radiance;  
 and, made brilliant by the splendor of the eternal King,  
 know that the ancient darkness has been banished from all the world.  
 Be glad also, O mother Church, clothed with the brightness of such a light,  
 and let this house resound with the triumphant voices of the peoples.  
 Wherefore, dearly beloved, who stand in the clarity of this bright and holy light,  
 join with me, I ask you, in praising the loving kindness of almighty God;  
 through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and forever. Amen.

**L** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Easter Proclamation or “Exsultet” is an ancient song of praise, inviting first heaven and earth, and then the church and the congregation to join in the praise of God. Significant biblical events are recalled—Adam, the Passover, the Exodus, and the resurrection. “This is the night” in which all of the Old Testament finds its fulfillment in the person and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Light of Christ  
is brought to the  
congregation as the  
Easter Proclamation  
continues.

It is indeed right and salutary  
that we should with full devotion of heart and mind and voice  
praise the invisible God, the Father Almighty,  
and his only Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ;  
who paid for us the debt of Adam to the eternal Father,  
and who by his precious blood  
redeemed us from the bondage to the ancient sin.  
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 in which, in ancient times,  
you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, from the land of Egypt;  
and led them, dry-shod, through the Red Sea.  
This, indeed, is the night in which the darkness of sin  
has been purged away by the rising brightness.  
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 in which, breaking the chains of death,  
Christ arises from hell in triumph.  
For it would have profited us nothing to be born  
had we not also been redeemed.  
Oh, how wonderful the condescension of your loving kindness!  
Oh, how inestimable the goodness of your love,  
that to redeem a slave you delivered up your Son!  
O necessary sin of Adam that is wiped away by the death of Christ!  
O happy fault that was worthy to have so great a Redeemer!  
O night truly blessed which alone was worthy  
to know the time and the hour wherein Christ arose again from hell!  
This is the night of which it is written:  
“and the night is as clear as the day”;  
and, “then shall my night be turned into day.”  
The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness;  
washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn;  
casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride.  
Therefore, in this night of grace, receive, O holy Father,  
this evening sacrifice of praise;  
which the Church lays before you in the solemn offering of the candle.  
We sing the glories of this pillar of fire,  
the brightness of which is not diminished,  
even when its light is divided and borrowed.  
For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants,  
have made for the substance of this candle.  
O night truly blessed in which heaven and earth are joined—  
things human and things divine.  
We, therefore, pray to you, O Lord,  
that this candle, burning to the honor of your name,  
will continue to vanquish the darkness of this night  
and be mingled with the lights of heaven.

May he who is the morning star find it burning—  
 that morning star which never sets,  
 that morning star which, rising again from the grave,  
 faithfully sheds light on all the human race.  
 And we pray, O Lord, rule, govern,  
 and preserve with your continual protection your whole Church,  
 giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing;  
 through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please extinguish candles.*

**Prayer of the Day**

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

We hear Scripture read and meditate on the experience of Israel and the Church. The readings present a review of the history of salvation. After each reading, a portion of Scripture is sung in response between cantor and congregation.

**First Reading:** *The first reading tells of creation, now renewed in Christ. At the first creation, the Spirit of God moved over the waters bringing order from chaos, and creation began with God speaking light into existence out of darkness. In the cross and resurrection of Christ the new creation begins, and is continued in Holy Baptism.*

**Service of Readings**

**First Reading**

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

OT page 1 in the pew Bible

**Psalms 136**

Michel Guimont

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*

**Refrain:** God's love en - dures for - ev - er.

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| <p>1. O give thanks to the Lord who is good,<br/>             whose love endures forever.<br/>             Give thanks to the God of gods,<br/>             whose love endures forever.<br/>             Give thanks to the Lord of lords,<br/>             whose love endures forever;<br/>             who alone has wrought marvelous works,<br/>             whose loves endures forever.<br/>             whose wisdom it was made the skies,<br/>             whose love endures forever.<br/>             who fixed the earth firmly on the seas,<br/>             whose love endures forever.<br/> <b>Refrain sung by all.</b></p> | <p>2. It was God who made the great lights,<br/>             whose love endures forever;<br/>             the sun to rule in the day,<br/>             whose love endures forever;<br/>             the moon and stars in the night,<br/>             whose love endures forever.<br/> <b>Refrain sung by all.</b></p> <p>3. God remembered us in our distress,<br/>             whose love endures forever.<br/>             God gives food to all living things,<br/>             whose love endures forever.<br/>             To the God of heaven give thanks,<br/>             whose love endures forever.<br/> <b>Refrain sung by all.</b></p> |
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*Silence for reflection.*

**Prayer**

**L** Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**Second Reading:** In Genesis 7, we hear of the great flood—a foreshadowing of Baptism. This Old Testament story is set in the context of Christ's resurrection by St. Peter in the New Testament where he writes: Christ was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also He went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to Him. [1 Peter 3:18-22]

**Second Reading** Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 OT page 6 in the pew Bible

**Psalm 46**

Michel Guimont

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*



**Refrain:** The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our strong - hold.

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| <p>1. God is for us a refuge and strength,<br/>a helper close at hand, in time of distress,<br/>so we shall not fear though the earth should rock,<br/>though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea;<br/>even though its waters rage and foam,<br/>even though the mountains be shaken by its waves.</p> | <p>2. The waters of a river give joy to God's city,<br/>the holy places where the Most High dwells.<br/>God is within, it cannot be shaken;<br/>God will help it at the dawning of the day.<br/>Nations are in tumult, kingdoms are shaken;<br/>God's voice roars forth, the earth shrinks away.</p> |
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*Refrain sung by all.*

*Refrain sung by all.*

3. Come, consider the works of the Lord,  
the redoubtable deeds God has done on the earth:  
putting an end to wars across the earth;  
breaking the bow, snapping the spear,  
burning the shields with fire.  
"Be still and know that I am God,  
supreme among the nations, supreme on the earth!"

*Refrain sung by all.*

*Silence for reflection.*

**Prayer**

**L** Let us pray. O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness: Look in mercy upon your church, a wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world come to see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through the one from whom they first took being, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

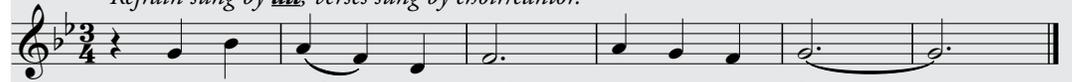
**Third Reading:** Genesis 22 recounts Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac and is a foreshadowing of the sacrifice of the Son of God. Further, it suggests the death that Baptism effects.

**Third Reading** Genesis 22:1-18 OT page 18 in the pew Bible

**Psalm 16**

Michel Guimont

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*



**Refrain:** Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

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| <p>1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup,<br/>it is you yourself who are my prize.<br/>I keep you, Lord, ever in my sight;<br/>since you are at my right hand, I shall stand firm.</p> | <p>2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;<br/>even my body shall rest in safety.<br/>For you will not leave my soul among the dead,<br/>nor let your beloved know decay.</p> |
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*Refrain sung by all.*

*Refrain sung by all.*

3. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness forever.

*Refrain sung by all.*

*Silence for reflection.*

**Prayer**

Let us pray. God and Father of all the faithful, you promised your servant Abraham that we would become the father of many nations, and through this gift of faith, you increase your chosen people throughout the world. Form us anew by the death of your Son, that we may joyfully accept the new life of grace given through Him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Fourth Reading: This story of Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea foreshadows our deliverance through the waters of Holy Baptism, where we are buried with Christ, but pass through the waters by the power of His Word, and raised to new life with Him.*

**Fourth Reading**

Exodus 13:17 – 14:31

OT page 61 in the pew Bible

**Exodus 15**

Traditional; chanted by cantor

I will sing to the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he has been my Savior.

This is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power,  
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

Who among the gods is like you, O Lord?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

In your mercy you led forth the people you set free;  
you guided them in your strength to your holy habitation.

You will bring them in and plant them  
on the mount that is your possession,

The place, O Lord, you have made for your dwelling,  
the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have prepared.

The Lord shall reign forever and ever. (Exod. 15)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Silence for reflection.*

**Prayer**

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm, you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by your Word given in the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Fifth Reading:** *To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness because God's ways are not our ways.*

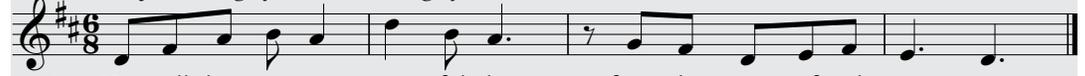
## Fifth Reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

OT page 702 in the pew Bible

### Isaiah 12

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*



**Refrain:** You will draw wa-ter joy - ful - ly from the springs of sal - va - tion.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my savior.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

**Refrain sung by all.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name,  
sing a psalm to the Lord!

**Refrain sung by all.**

3. For he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Refrain sung by all.**

*Silence for reflection.*

## Prayer

**L** Let us pray. Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Holy Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**Sixth Reading:** *The wisdom of God is the way of death and resurrection. We are given God's Word in Holy Baptism, which puts to death the wisdom of the world and promises new life.*

## Sixth Reading

Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6

OT page 603 in the pew Bible

### Psalm 19

Michel Guimont

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*



**Refrain:** Lord, you have the words of ev - er - last - ing life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple.

**Refrain sung by all.**

2. The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes.

**Refrain sung by all.**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding forever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just.

**Refrain sung by all.**

4. They are more to be desired than gold,  
than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb.

**Refrain sung by all.**

*Silence for reflection.*

## Prayer

**L** Let us pray. O God, our wisdom, teacher of truth, you fill your house by continuing to call all peoples into the way of insight. With your food and drink, sustain us in the path of justice, and by your love watch over those whom you have called through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**Seventh Reading:** *Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving Spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord." Likewise, we are given new life in Holy Baptism through God's Holy Spirit and Word of promise.*

**Seventh Reading** Ezekiel 37:1-14

OT page 829 in the pew Bible

**Psalm 143**

Michel Guimont

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*



**Refrain:** Lord, for your name's sake, save my life.

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| <p>1. Lord, listen to my prayer, turn your ear to my appeal.<br/>You are faithful, you are just; give answer.<br/>Do not call your servant to judgement<br/>for no one is just in your sight.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> <p>3. Lord, make haste and answer;<br/>for my spirit fails within me.<br/>Do not hide your face<br/>lest I become like those in the grave.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> | <p>2. I remember the days that are past;<br/>I ponder all your works.<br/>I muse on what your hand has wrought<br/>and to you I stretch out my hands.<br/>Like a parched land my soul thirsts for you.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> <p>4. Rescue me, Lord, from my enemies;<br/>I have fled to you for refuge.<br/>For your name's sake, Lord, save my life;<br/>in your justice save my soul from distress.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> |
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*Silence for reflection.*

**Prayer**

- ☒ Let us pray. Living God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Breathe into us your life-giving Spirit, that receiving the gifts of Word and Sacrament, we may live in the hope of all your blessings to come, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ☒ Amen.

**Eighth Reading:** *In this reading, listen as God is present in a renewed Israel, washing his people with cleansing water. In the church, Christ's presence is known by his baptized people, washed in the waters of Baptism.*

**Eighth Reading** Isaiah 4:2-6

OT page 647 in the pew Bible

**Isaiah 5**

Traditional; chanted by cantor

I will sing for my beloved  
my love song about his vineyard.  
My beloved had a vineyard  
high upon a fertile hillside.  
He dug the soil, and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice red vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and then hewed out a winepress.  
The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah are the plant he cherished.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Silence for reflection.*

**Prayer**

- ☒ Let us pray. O God, by the word of the prophets, you are known in the Church as the sower of the good seed, the keeper of the chosen vineyard. Grant to your people, who are called your vine and your harvest, that, cleansed of all thorns, they may abundantly bring forth good fruit, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ☒ Amen.

**Ninth Reading:** This reading tells of the institution of the Passover, the festival of deliverance and preparation for the Christian Passover in which Christ the Lamb of God—the Paschal Lamb—is sacrificed and given in Word and Sacrament.

## Ninth Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

OT page 59 in the pew Bible

### Psalm 98

Michel Guimont

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*



**Refrain:** Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done mar-vel-ous deeds.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
who has worked wonders;  
whose right hand and holy arm  
have brought salvation.

**Refrain sung by all.**

2. The Lord has made known salvation  
has shown justice to the nations;  
has remembered truth and love  
for the house of Israel.

**Refrain sung by all.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
ring out your joy.

**Refrain sung by all.**

*Silence for reflection.*

### Prayer

**L** Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, wonderful in all your works: Let your people understand that even more marvelous than the world's creation is your gift at the end of time: the sacrifice of our Passover Lamb, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**Tenth Reading:** This lesson tells of the instantaneous and complete conversion of Nineveh after the preaching of Jonah. The lesson calls up the whole Jonah story and points to baptismal repentance for all people.

## Tenth Reading

Jonah 1:1 – 2:1

OT page 884 in the pew Bible

### Jonah 2

Michel Guimont

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*



**Refrain:** From the Lord comes sal-va - tion. From the Lord comes sal - va - tion.

1. In my distress I cried to the Lord,  
I cried and God answered;  
from the belly of hell I call:  
you hear my voice.

**Refrain sung by all.**

2. You cast me in the heart of the sea  
and the flood has covered me;  
your waves and your currents together  
have swept me under.

**Refrain sung by all.**

3. And I said:  
"Now I am rejected from before your eyes;  
but I shall see again your holy temple."

**Refrain sung by all.**

4. When my soul was weak within me,  
I remembered the Lord;  
I lifted my prayer to you  
in your holy temple.

**Refrain sung by all.**

### Prayer

**L** Let us pray. O God of deliverance, you saved Jonah through the waters of death, and after three days, you brought him to new life. Speak to us by your Word, and call us to repentance, that we may heed the voice of your risen Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**Eleventh Reading:** Moses gives a stern warning to God's people, having set before them the law and the covenant of God. The reading is a preparation for the renewal of baptismal vows and that covenant and promise that God makes through water and His Word.

**Eleventh Reading** Deuteronomy 31:19-30

OT page 191 in the pew Bible

**Deuteronomy 32**

Michel Guimont

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*



**Refrain:** Praise the name of the Lord, the rock, whose ways are just.

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| <p>1. Listen, O heavens and I will speak,<br/>let the earth hear the words on my lips,<br/>may my teaching fall like the rain,<br/>my speech descend like the dew,<br/>like rain drops on the young green,<br/>like showers falling on the grass.<br/><b>Refrain sung by all.</b></p> | <p>2. For I shall praise the name of the Lord,<br/>O give glory to this God of ours!<br/>The rock - his deeds are perfect,<br/>and all his ways are just,<br/>a faithful God, without deceit,<br/>a God who is right and just.<br/><b>Refrain sung by all.</b></p> |
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3. Remember the days of old,  
consider the years that are past;  
ask your parents and they will show you,  
ask your elders and they will tell you.  
For the Lord will do justice to the people,  
and have mercy on those who serve God.  
**Refrain sung by all.**

*Silence for reflection.*

**Prayer**

- L** Let us pray. O God, exaltation of the humble and strength of the righteous: You taught your people through Moses to sing your praise, that the law which he delivered to them might be helpful to us. Show your power among all nations that, in the forgiveness of sin, terror may turn to joy, and fear of retribution of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** Amen.

**Twelfth Reading:** The final reading tells the story of the three young men who were thrown into the blazing furnace and whose survival is thought by the church to foreshadow the resurrection.

**Twelfth Reading** Daniel 3:1-29

OT page 845 in the pew Bible

## Song of the Three Young Men

All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord. *Refrain sung by all.*

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*



**Refrain:** Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - er.

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| <p>1. You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord;<br/>you heavens, bless the Lord;<br/>all you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> <p>3. You winds of God, bless the Lord;<br/>you fire and heat, bless the Lord;<br/>you winter and summer, bless the Lord.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> <p>5. You nights and days, bless the Lord;<br/>you light and darkness, bless the Lord;<br/>you lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> <p>7. You wells and springs, bless the Lord;<br/>you rivers and seas, bless the Lord;<br/>you whales and all who move in the waters,<br/>bless the Lord.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> <p>9. You people of God, bless the Lord;<br/>you priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;<br/>you servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> | <p>2. You sun and moon, bless the Lord;<br/>you stars of heaven, bless the Lord;<br/>you showers and dew, bless the Lord.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> <p>4. You dews and frost, bless the Lord;<br/>you frost and cold, bless the Lord;<br/>you ice and snow, bless the Lord.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> <p>6. Let the earth bless the Lord:<br/>you mountains and hills, bless the Lord;<br/>all you green things that grow on the earth, bless the Lord.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> <p>8. All you birds of the air, bless the Lord;<br/>all you beasts and cattle, bless the Lord;<br/>all you children of mortals, bless the Lord.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> <p>10. You spirits and souls of the righteous, bless the Lord;<br/>you pure and humble of heart, bless the Lord;<br/>let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.<br/><i>Refrain sung by all.</i></p> |
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*Silence for reflection.*

### Prayer

- L** Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets, you declare to us the Word of salvation. By the grace of your Holy Spirit, increase the devotion of all the baptized, that strengthened by your promise, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**New Testament Reading:**  
*In the first part of his letter to the Romans, St. Paul says that God sent Christ to die for us while we were sinners and so, by grace, has claimed us through baptism. Now, he clarifies that baptism also brings freedom from the slavery of sin and new life.*

**New Testament Reading** Romans 6:1-11

NT page 148 in the pew Bible

**Sermon**

Pastor Jeff Backer

## Service of Holy Baptism

### God's Institution and Promise

- ☐ Our Lord Jesus Christ has said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” [Matthew 28:19]

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the Church, which is the body of Christ. As we live with Him and with His people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God. [Romans 6]

Our Lord Jesus Christ has promised that, “the one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.” [Mark 16:16]

### Presentation and Catechism

- ☐ Bailey and Courtney, as parents of Cooper, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Cooper baptized into Christ? If so, please answer “*We do.*”

As you bring Cooper to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with these very vital and formative responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people; to bring him to the word of God and the holy supper; teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments; place in his hands the holy scriptures; and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ, crucified and risen, through word and deed. That is, give him the Bible and the Catechism, tell him God's law and promise, so that he will grow up in the Christian faith.

To you, Bailey and Courtney, do you promise to nurture Cooper in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Holy Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

If so, please answer “*We do.*”

To you, Alexis and Landen, as sponsors, do you promise to nurture Cooper in Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, to pray for him, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? If so, please answer, “*We do*”

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you, Courtney, desire to be baptized into Christ? If so, please answer *“I do.”*

Courtney, for as much as you, who has attained adult years without baptism, has come to a knowledge of the truth of God’s grace as set forth in the Holy Scriptures and in the confession of the church, and therefore desires to be Baptized, we will receive you now in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that through the work of the Holy Spirit, God may create in you a living faith and a steadfast renewal of heart to prosper salvation of your soul and to glorify God.

In faith, will you attend the services of God’s house? If so, please answer *“I will.”*

Will you continue to open yourself to the works of faith, which is to read the Scriptures? *“I will.”*

Will you follow the demand of God’s law through the Ten Commandments as to what you are called to do and what your neighbor needs? *“I will.”*

Will you seek to know the creed that tells you what the Lord has done for you? *“I will.”*

Will you seek to know the Lord’s Prayer so that you might know how to speak to your heavenly Father in all times of need? *“I will.”*

### **The Prayer**

**P** Let us call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that by His merciful Holy Spirit, He now claims Cooper and Courtney as His righteous children by faith alone and a living part of his holy church.

Almighty and everlasting God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; I call on you to give Cooper and Courtney the gift of your Holy Baptism. Come, Holy Spirit, take them as your own, making them children of light; called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified in true faith; remove them forever from death and the evil one. Receive them as you have promised by your Son, Jesus Christ who said, “Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find; knock, and the door will be opened”; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

### **Renunciation and Profession of Faith**

**P** With the whole church, let us profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, death, and the devil, and confess the faith of Christ’s church.

Do you renounce the devil and all of the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

If so, please say, *“I renounce them.”*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**C** 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; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C** 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. Amen.

**Thanksgiving at the Font**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, according to your judgment you condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to your great mercy you preserved believing Noah and his family. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet you led your people Israel through the water onto dry ground, prefiguring this washing of your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Jordan River, you sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood, and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that you would enfold Cooper and Courtney according to your boundless mercy and bless them with true faith by the Holy Spirit that through your Word given in this water all sin in them would be drowned and die. Grant that Cooper and Courtney be kept safe in the holy ark of your Church and secure in your promise, serving your name with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers, they would be brought to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**Baptism**

**P** Cooper Kade Nelson, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Courtney Love Johnson, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you new birth for a second time through water and the Holy Spirit in the preaching of His Word, has forgiven you all of your sins, keep you now in His grace unto eternal life.

**C** Amen.

**Seal**

**P** Cooper Kade Nelson, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Courtney Love Johnson, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**Candle**

### Presentation

☐ Here now is Cooper, righteous child of God by water, Word, and faith alone; here now is Courtney, righteous child of God by water, Word, and faith alone; members of the royal priesthood of all believers, reborn this day to eternal life. The ways of this world have been conquered by Jesus Christ for them. Neither death nor the devil shall have any claim over them. All of their sins past, present, or to come have been taken by Christ. The Holy Spirit now dwells with them. They shall be saved. Peace be with you.

☑ Amen.

### Baptismal Litany

Traditional; chanted

*Refrain sung by all; verses sung by choir/cantor.*

Refrain: Springs of wa - ter bless the Lord,  
give God glo - ry and praise for - ev - er.

1. Praise be God our Father.  
God has given His spirit of love.  
Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins,  
wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.  
You have put on Christ,  
in Christ you have been baptized.  
Bathed in the fountain of life,  
you have God's kingdom as your hope.  
**Refrain sung by all.**

2. Buried with Christ in death,  
you are reborn in Christ by faith.  
Rejoice, you newly baptized,  
chosen members of the kingdom.  
You are God's work of art,  
created in Christ Jesus.  
All of you are one,  
united in Christ Jesus.  
**Refrain sung by all.**

*We depart in silence.*



# Welcome to Worship

First Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).



## Community Ministers & Missionaries

Each member of First Lutheran Church

## Pastoral Staff

John Christopherson, M. Div. Ph.D.  
Jeff Backer, M.Div.  
Katherine Olson, M. Div.  
L. Lars Olson, M. Div.  
David Johnson, M. Div. (*Emeritus*)

## Visitation Pastors

Bob Chell, M. Div.  
David Houck, B. Div.  
Roger Noer, M. Div.  
Dennis Tranberg, M. Div.

## Youth and Family Ministries

Marnie Dahle Backer, Director  
Heather Smith, Children's Minister  
Elias Johnson-Youngquist, Youth Minister

## Music Ministries

Zachary Brockhoff, M.M., Director  
Larry Olson, Contemporary Worship Coordinator

## Contact an Usher

- Assistance with wheelchair seating
- Personal listening device
- Large print bulletin
- If you are a physician or nurse willing to help in an emergency

## Children are Welcome in Worship

- Children's bulletins and activity bags are available in Children's Crossing.
- If your child becomes restless you may view the service in the Welcome Center.
- Nursery is available Sundays, 7:45 AM to 12:15 PM.

## Learn More

Visit [flcsf.org](http://flcsf.org) for all the latest news and events.

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## Worship Assistants

### Cantor

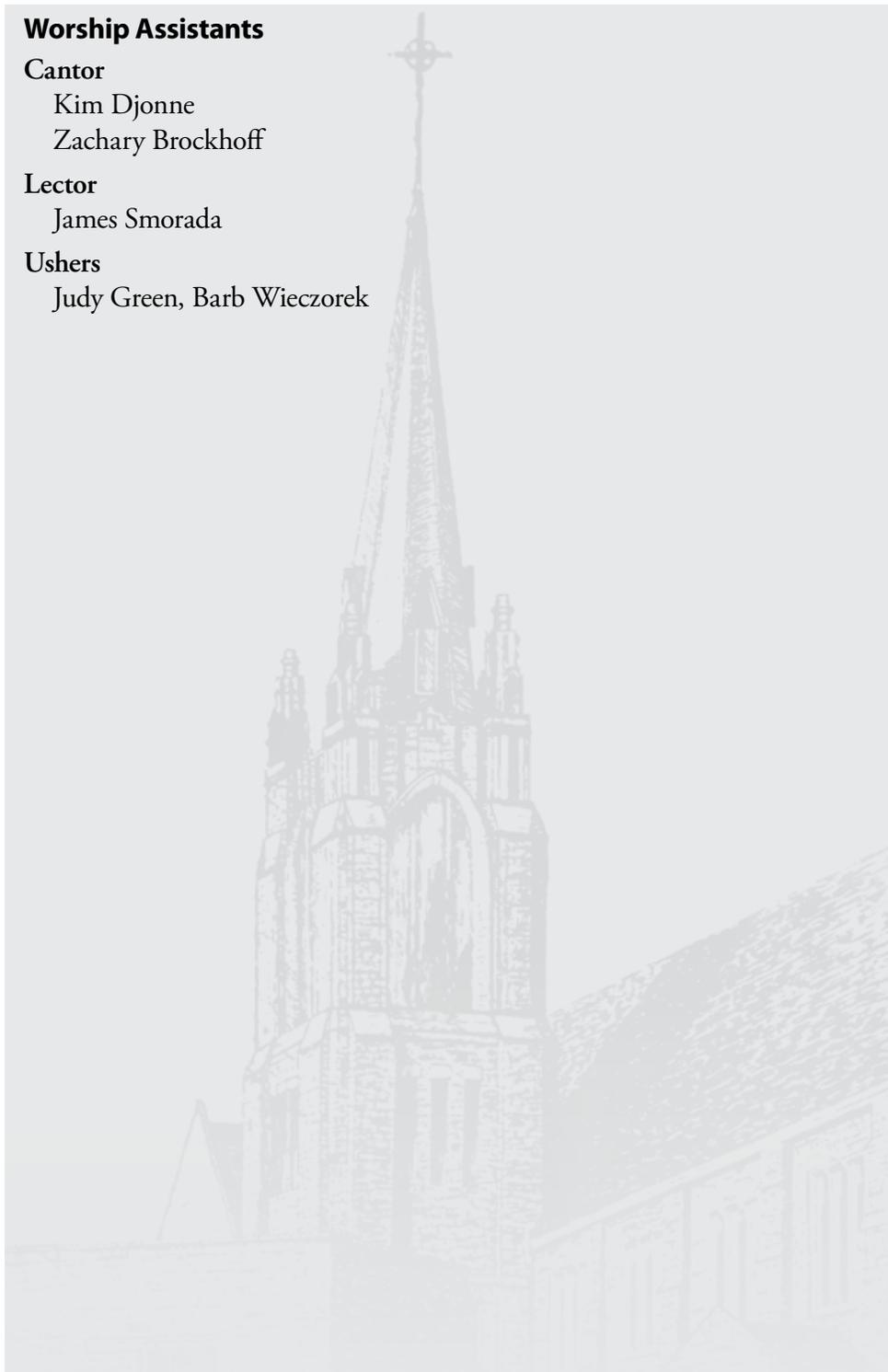
Kim Djonne  
Zachary Brockhoff

### Lector

James Smorada

### Ushers

Judy Green, Barb Wiczorek



## Worship Services

### Saturday (Chapel)

5 PM Vespers with Communion

### Sunday (Sanctuary)

8 AM Traditional with Communion

9:30 AM Traditional Worship

11 AM Contemporary Worship

## Listen/Watch

8 AM KELO-FM Radio (101.9)

11 AM KSFY-Sioux Falls, KPRY-Pierre and KABY-Aberdeen

Telecasts are available at [flcsf.org/telecasts](http://flcsf.org/telecasts).

