



**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
3701 Jefferson Ave Midland, MI 48640  
April 4, 2026, 5:00 pm

Jeffery Gramza, Senior Pastor  
Tim Jordan, Intern Pastor  
Jonathan Lonsway, Director of Music

# The Triduum

## The Great Vigil of Easter

*Like the children of Israel who watched and waited through the night for the Lord of the Exodus, we too come together this night to watch and wait for the Lord of the Resurrection. We come, as Christians have come since the first century, to keep vigil and to prepare ourselves for the arrival of the Bridegroom who is chief host and guest at the Easter feast to come.*

*First, we must break the darkness of the night. Like the virgins in the parable, we must light our vigil lights. Our light will be a very special light, for it is the light of Christ which burns atop the Paschal candle and which dispels the darkness -- of night, of sin, of death. Our light will be a constant reminder of the Easter victory during the coming season, at every baptism and at every funeral. But for now, it will burn in vigil as we await the Bridegroom.*

*When we have settled into our pews for the watch, we hear the storytellers among us sharing the stories of our faith -- the stories of God's salvation history and the covenants which he made with our people. These are our "family" stories. We listen. We sing. We watch. And we wait for the feast to come.*

*After hearing our stories, we make our last minute preparations to meet our Lord. All must be right for the feast. Those among us who have not yet joined us are brought into membership with us this night, making all who are here part of the family, which is the Church and the Bride of Christ. And so that the whole family is prepared, each of us renews our baptismal vows. As the water touches us, we hear and we feel that grace which was given to us through our baptism.*

*We are nearly ready. The time is close. Quickly we prepare the room and set the table. Flowers and banners must adorn the space, for it will be a feast to remember.*

*And then at last He comes! The Easter victory is won! The Bridegroom has come through the darkness to claim his Bride, the Church, to be his own. This is the feast of victory!*

### PRELUDE

*Pensive Procession*

June Nixon  
Charly Sly, organ

### POSTLUDE

*Sonne er Gerechtigkeit*

David Schack  
Charly Sly, organ

### Copyright Acknowledgements

"Pensive Procession" by June Nixon  
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"Dry Bones" arranged by Mark Hayes  
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"This Joyful Eastertide" arranged by Hal Leonard  
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"Sonne der Gerechtigkeit" by David Schack  
Tune: Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566  
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## Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## LITURGY OF LIGHT

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.**

Sisters and brothers 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, through 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. O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter Vigil so that, burning with desire for life with you, they may be found fit to take part in that festival of Light which has no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE FIRE

## PRAYER

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.**

Christ, yesterday and today,  
The beginning  
And the ending.  
To Christ belongs all time  
And all the ages;  
To Christ belongs glory and dominion  
Now and forever. **Amen.**



*The Paschal Candle is lighted.*

May the light of Christ who rises this night in glory scatter the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share this night in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

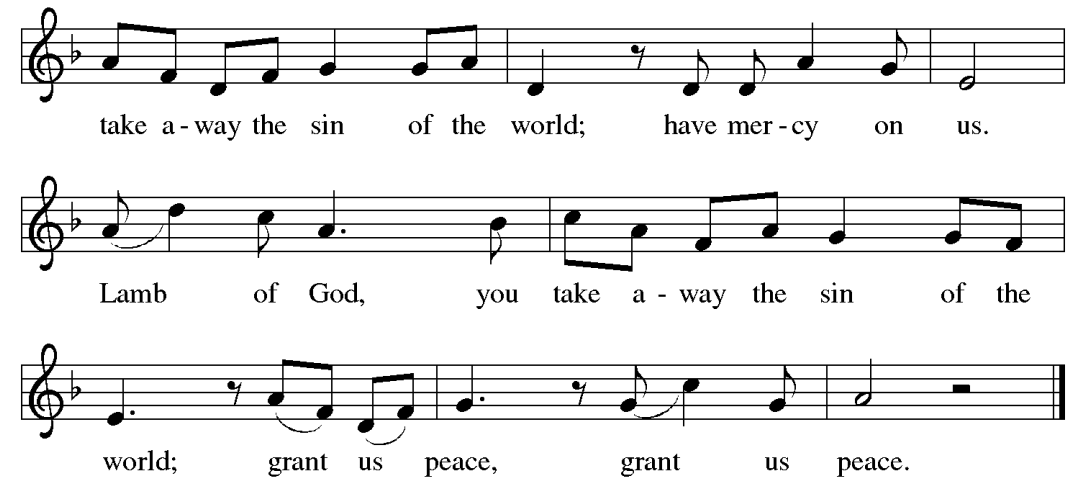
## THE PROCESSION

The Light of Christ!  
**Thanks be to God!**  
*Repeat as directed*

## THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

*Remain standing while the Paschal Candle is placed in the center of the chancel and the chancel lights are brought up.*

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



take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

ELW #379

*Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

ELW #389

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

May the Father, who spoke light into the darkness, shine glory upon you.

May the Son, who broke the chains of death, raise you in endless life.

May the ✠ Holy Spirit, who kindles faith's flame, fill you with Easter joy.

Go in peace, proclaiming:

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR EASTER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:  
**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.**

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Communion will be distributed by coming forward and receiving the bread and wine. The center cups (white) are non-alcoholic grape juice. Upon receiving, please put empty cups in baskets provided. If you prefer gluten free, please ask Pastor who is distributing. Please proceed up the center aisle returning to your seat via the side aisles.*

### LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

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.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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.

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. **Amen.**

*All extinguish their candles and are seated.*

### STORIES OF A SALVATION PEOPLE

*While we wait in vigil for the resurrection Lord, we tell the stories of our "family" history, recalling how God loved and saved his people throughout history.*

### THE STORY OF CREATION: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

## HYMN

### Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,  
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.  
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.  
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.  
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - jice  
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake  
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.  
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.  
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

## PRAYER

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 him who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!*

ELW #382

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God,  
**Receive our prayer.**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF THE RISEN LORD

*Offer a sign of peace with those around you.*

## GATHERING OF GIFTS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

## OFFERTORY

*This Joyful Eastertide*

Arr. Hal Leonard  
Jonathan Lonsway, piano

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious and Risen Lord, as the earth awakens to the light of your victory, we bring these gifts before you, fruits of your own creation, offerings of grateful hearts. Bless these gifts, O Lord, that they may be signs of our abundance, feeding the hungry, lifting the weary, proclaiming the power of resurrection love. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. **Amen.**

## 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.

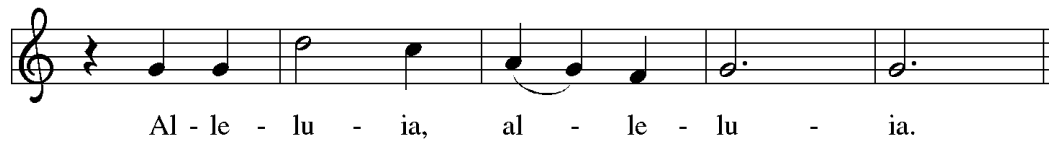
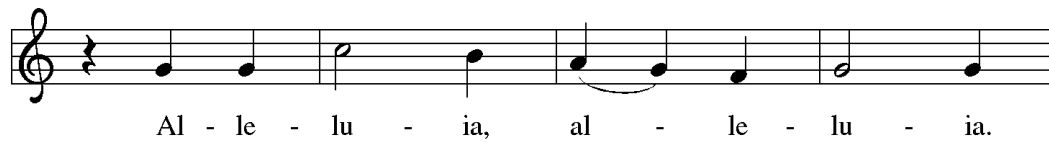
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. **Amen.**

### THE FEAST OF VICTORY

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Proper:*

Let us sing to the Lord, who has | triumphed gloriously  
Our strength and our might, who has become | our salvation.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord!**

#### GOSPEL LESSON: John 20:1-18

The Gospel of the Risen Lord!  
**Praise to you, O Christ!**

#### HYMN

*Who Is Like Our God / Quién como Jehová*



¿Quién, quién, quién co - mo Jeho - vá, que con su po -  
Who, who, who is like our God, who, with might - y



der el mar a - brió? ¿Quién, quién, quién co - mo Jeho -  
hand, did part the sea? Who, who, who is like our



vá, que con su po - der el mar a - brió?  
God, who, with might - y hand, did part the sea?



Oi - rán las na - cio - nes lo que él hi - zo;  
All the na - tions will hear what God has done for us,



tem - bla - rán cuan - do ve - an sus pro - di gios.  
and will trem - ble to see such signs and won - ders.



Su pue - blo le a - la - ba - rá, con pan - de - ro dan - za - rá,  
Let God's peo - ple praise and sing, dance with joy and tam - bou - rines.



y di - rán, "¿Quién, quién co - mo Jeho - vá?"  
Let them say, "Who, who is like our God?"

Text: Anonymous, based on Exodus 15; tr. Greg Scheer, b. 1966  
Music: QUIÉN COMO JEHOVÁ, Anonymous  
English text © 2019 Greg Scheer, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## 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 of all nations by the water of Baptism. Grand that all the peoples of earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham and may rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE STORY OF THE DRY BONES: Ezekiel 37:1-14

### ANTHEM

*Dry Bones*

arr. Mark Hayes  
True Spirit Singers

## PRAYER

O God, by the Passover of the Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life. Give us such an understanding of your mercy that, in receiving the gifts of Word and Sacrament now, we may learn to hope for all your gifts to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SALVATION IS OFFERED TO ALL: Isaiah 55:1-11

### HYMN

*As the Deer Runs to the River*

ELW #331  
vs. 1, 3-4

## PRAYER

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Sisters and brothers, on this most holy night, the Church keeps vigil, awaiting the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul teaches us that by baptism, we were buried with Christ and lay dead in order that as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendor of the Father, so we should set our feet on the new path of life.

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, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God 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. Amen.**

*The minister divides the water in the form of a cross.*

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us,

