

# The Resurrection of Our Lord:

## Vigil of Easter



*9 p.m., April 19, 2025*

University Lutheran Church  
66 Winthrop St. | Cambridge, Mass. | [unilu.org](http://unilu.org)

## GATHERING

*As the assembly gathers on the front steps of the church building, the new fire is lit by Lorraine Fitzmaurice. Each worshiper receives an unlighted candle.*

## GREETING

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

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

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

*The presiding minister traces this inscription on the paschal candle:*

Christ, yesterday and today,	✙
the beginning	A
and the ending.	Ω
To Christ belongs all time	2
and all the ages;	0
to Christ belongs glory and dominion	2
now and forever.	5

**Amen.**

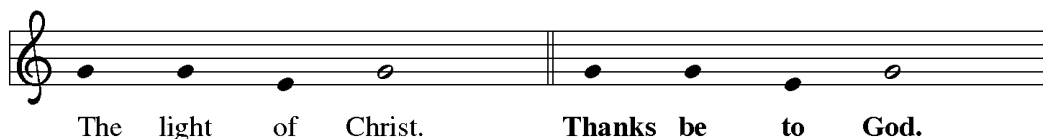
*The presiding minister lights the paschal candle from the new fire and says:*

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

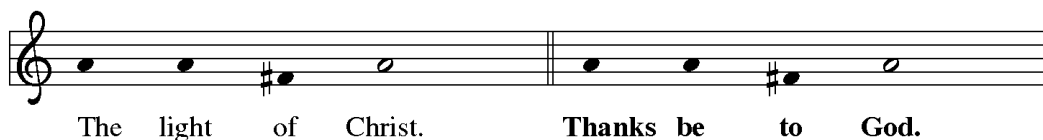
*The assisting minister lifts the candle so that all may see it.*

## PROCESSION

*The assembly processes to the Alumni/ae Room, led by the assisting minister bearing the paschal candle. During the procession, light from the paschal candle is passed until the people's candles are all lighted. As the procession begins:*



*Stopping at midpoint inside the church building, the assisting minister lifts the paschal candle:*



*Arriving at the paschal candle stand, the assisting minister lifts the paschal candle:*

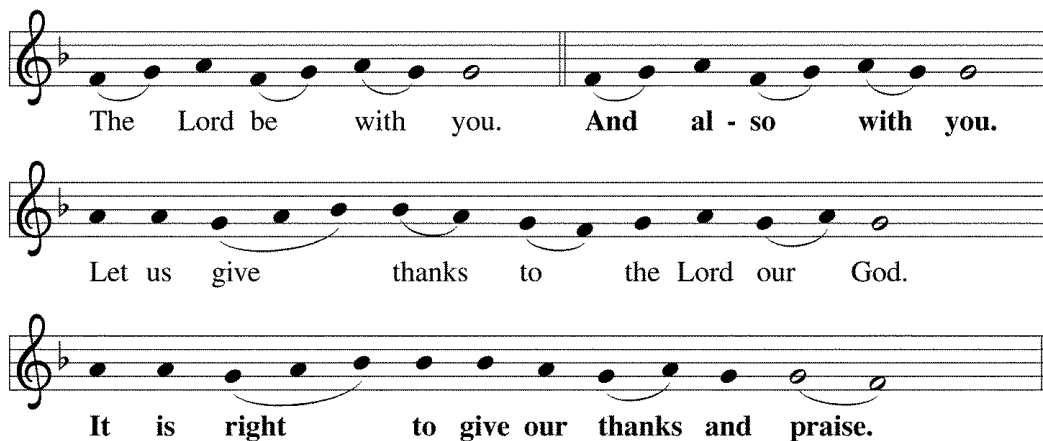


*The paschal candle is placed in its stand.*

## EASTER PROCLAMATION

*The assisting minister leads the Easter proclamation:*

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen! Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation. Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your king! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever. Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people.



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from 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!

*The assembly responds:* **This is the night!**

In which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.

This is the night!

*The assembly responds:* **This is the night!**

In which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.

This is the night!

*The assembly responds:* **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!

*The assembly responds:* **This is the night!**

In which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph. O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell!

This is the night!

*The assembly responds:* **This is the night!**

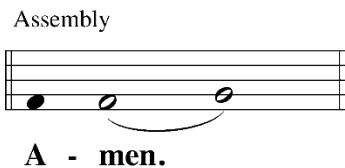
Of which it is written: “The night is as clear as the day,” and, “then shall my night be turned into day.” The holiness of this night puts to flight the deeds of wickedness; washes away sin; restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn; casts out hate; brings peace; and humbles earthly pride. Therefore, in this night of grace, receive, O God, our praise and thanksgiving for the light of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, reflected in the burning of this 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.

This is the night!

*The assembly responds:* **This is the night!**

In which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O God, that this candle, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of night and be mingled with the lights of heaven. May Christ the Morning Star find it burning, that Morning Star who never sets, that Morning Star who, rising from the grave, faithfully sheds light on the whole human race. And we pray, O God, 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.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated. Hand-held candles may be extinguished.*

## VIGIL READINGS

### FIRST READING: CREATION

*“The Creation” by James Weldon Johnson, read by Emilie Casey*

*Silent reflection.*

### 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 the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

### SECOND READING: FLOOD

*Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13, read by Stephen Deets*

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. <sup>2</sup>Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; <sup>3</sup>and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. <sup>4</sup>For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” <sup>5</sup>And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

<sup>11</sup>In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst



forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. <sup>12</sup>The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. <sup>13</sup>On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, <sup>14</sup>they and every wild animal of every kind and all domestic animals of every kind and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth and every bird of every kind. <sup>15</sup>They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. <sup>16</sup>And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him, and the LORD shut them in.

<sup>17</sup>The flood continued forty days on the earth, and the waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. <sup>18</sup>The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

<sup>8:6</sup>At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made <sup>7</sup>and sent out the raven, and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent out the dove from him to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground, <sup>9</sup>but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So Noah put out his hand and took the dove and brought it into the ark with him. <sup>10</sup>He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark, <sup>11</sup>and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. <sup>12</sup>Then he waited another seven days and sent out the dove, and it did not return to him any more.

<sup>13</sup>In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth, and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked and saw that the face of the ground was drying. <sup>14</sup>In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. <sup>15</sup>Then God said to

Noah, <sup>16</sup>“Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. <sup>17</sup>Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” <sup>18</sup>So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives.

<sup>9:8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSE

All Creation Sings 989, taught and led by Carrie Ballenger

### Let Your Peace Rain upon Us *Yarabba ssalami*



Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam,  
Let your peace rain up - on us, O liv - ing God of . . . peace.



ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi im la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.  
Let your peace rain up - on us, Lord, fill our hearts . . with your peace.

Text: Palestinian traditional; tr. Mark Swanson, b. 1955, and Mark Sedio, b. 1954

Music: YARABBA SSALAMI, Palestinian traditional

English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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*Silent reflection.*

## PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

### THIRD READING: DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

*Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21, read by Wendy Mallette*

A reading from Exodus.

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD.

<sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” <sup>13</sup>But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. <sup>16</sup>But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them, and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. <sup>18</sup>Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.”

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the LORD, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down upon the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic, <sup>25</sup>clogging their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in Moses, the servant of the LORD.

<sup>15:20</sup>Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. <sup>21</sup>And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, who has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider have been thrown into the sea."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSE

*“Make Them Hear You” from Ragtime, sung by Amanda Wiederoder*

*Silent 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 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.**

## FOURTH READING: SALVATION FREELY OFFERED TO ALL

*Isaiah 55:1–11, read by Chris Pollari*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for the LORD has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while the LORD may be found; call upon God while God is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, who will have mercy on them, and to our God, who will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSE

*Reflection by Susan Worst*

*Silent reflection.*

## PRAYER

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your 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. **Amen.**

## FIFTH READING: VALLEY OF THE DRY BONES

*Ezekiel 37:1–14, read by Lauren Jacobi*

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>The LORD led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>The LORD said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they



may live.” <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as the LORD commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

#### RESPONSE

*Reflection by Laurel Oberstadt-Petrik*

*Silent reflection.*

#### PRAYER

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.**

## SIXTH READING: DELIVERANCE FROM THE FIERY FURNACE

*Daniel 3:1–29, read by Ann Ferentz (the assembly is invited to play their instruments when they hear this phrase: “horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble...”)*

A reading from Daniel.

<sup>1</sup>King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. <sup>3</sup>So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, <sup>4</sup>the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, <sup>5</sup>that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.” <sup>7</sup>Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup>They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! <sup>10</sup>You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden

statue, <sup>11</sup>and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. <sup>12</sup>There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods, and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in, so they brought those men before the king.

<sup>14</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? <sup>15</sup>Now if you are ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you should fall down and worship the statue that I have made. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

<sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let God deliver us. <sup>18</sup>But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

<sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary <sup>20</sup>and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>21</sup>So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>22</sup>Because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace was so

overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>23</sup>But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

<sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.” <sup>25</sup>He replied, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt, and the fourth has the appearance of a god.” <sup>26</sup>Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. <sup>27</sup>And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not scorched, and not even the smell of fire came from them. <sup>28</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent an angel and delivered these servants who trusted in their God. They disobeyed the king’s command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup>Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Silent reflection.*

## PRAYER

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 Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

### PROCESSION TO THE FONT

*The assembly processes to the baptismal font in the narthex, singing the following led by Lorraine Fitzmaurice:*

See the little baby, (amen) laying in the manger,  
(amen) in a lonely stable (amen, amen, amen).

See him in the temple, (amen) talking with the elders,  
(amen) now they marvel at his wisdom (amen, amen, amen).

See him on the seashore, (amen) talking with the fishermen,  
(amen) and he made them his disciples (amen, amen, amen).

See him in the garden, (amen) praying to his father,  
(amen) in deepest sorrow (amen, amen, amen).

*The assembly gathers around the font.*

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

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

#### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

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

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

**I renounce them.**

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

**I renounce them.**

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

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
who descended into hell.  
And on the third day rose again;  
who ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
who will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

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

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

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

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

*The assembly processes into the sanctuary and up to the chancel area, singing the following led by Lorraine Fitzmaurice:*

Jesus is our savior, (amen) yes he died to save us,  
(amen) and he rose one morning (amen, amen, amen).

*The assembly is seated in the chancel.*



## WORD

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Romans 6:3–11, read by Kristian Kohler*

A reading from Romans.

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

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

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands as able to sing the following led by Lorraine Fitzmaurice:*

Halleluia, (amen) halleluia,  
(amen) halleluia (amen, amen, amen).

## GOSPEL

### *John 20:1–18*

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

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that Jesus must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She

turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that Jesus had said these things to her.

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

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

### THE PASCHAL SERMON OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

*Read by Carrie Ballenger*

### PEACE

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

### MEAL

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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

*San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:*  
*Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,*

*. . . lle-nos es-tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.*  
*your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . . You are ho - ly, God.*

*Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor. . . .*  
*. . . Bless - ed be the Sav - ior, the one who comes in your name.*

*Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to e-res, oh Dios.*  
*Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.*

Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version  
 Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional  
 English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The thanksgiving may include this acclamation:*

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

*The thanksgiving concludes:*

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

Friends, it gladdens the heart of Jesus when we pray:

**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,**

**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO RECEIVE AND SHARE COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*For those worshipping via Zoom, individuals may commune themselves and households may serve one another with the same words.*

## HYMN DURING COMMUNION

### Evangelical Lutheran Worship 388

#### Be Not Afraid

The image displays a musical score for the hymn 'Be Not Afraid'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!'. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment, also ending with a double bar line.

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.

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## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

### SENDING

### BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 391

This Joyful Eastertide

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall  
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - - row.  
wake the dead in num - - ber.  
pass - ing soul de - liv - er.



*Refrain*

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934  
 Music: Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.; arr. hymnal version  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

To make a one-time donation by phone (Google or Apple Pay, Venmo, PayPal, or credit card), you may visit [givebutter.com/university-lutheran-church](https://givebutter.com/university-lutheran-church) or scan the QR code here:



Many people in our community already give online. Visit [unilu.org/giving](https://unilu.org/giving) if you would like to set up an electronic funds transfer, or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to: 66 WINTHROP ST, CAMBRIDGE MA 02138 (there may be a slight delay in processing donations received by mail).

**Serving Today:**

Presiding Minister: Carrie Ballenger

Assisting Minister: Kristian Kohler

Readers: Emilie Casey, Stephen Deets, Ann Ferentz, Lauren Jacobi, Kristian Kohler,  
Wendy Mallette, and Chris Pollari

Responders: Carrie Ballenger, Laurel Oberstadt-Petrik, Amanda Wiederoder, and  
Susan Worst

Musicians: Carrie Ballenger, Lorraine Fitzmaurice, and Kristian Kohler

**The Prayers of the People are asked for:**

Cheri Agaskar – UniLu member

David Bailey – friend of Gail Bucher

Ellen Bartlett – sister of Gail Bucher

Margrit Betke – UniLu member

Lorraine and Roland Blanchard – friends of Gail Bucher

Ed Bucher – UniLu member

Alice Conway – sister of Karin Kutrieb

Solveig Ericson – UniLu member

Bob Flannery – UniLu member

Barbara Frank – mother-in-law of Anne Howarth

George Gordon – UniLu member

Nancy Gould – UniLu member

Family and friends mourning the death of Vera Ryen Gregg

Charles Jaferian – grandson of Nancy Gould

Jorge G. Miranda – friend of Ricardo A. Pulgar

Karen Nichols – UniLu member

Duncan McCoy Norton – son of Megan McCoy

Anne Minton – colleague of Imogene Stulken

The Ralston-Lamb family – UniLu members

Jeanette Searson – sister of Imogene Stulken

Judy Steele – sister of Phyllis Steele

For our siblings at Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge and their pastor, Robin Lutjohann.

For our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, including the staff of Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives and all those for whom they provide care.

For our Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox Christian siblings around the world celebrating Easter.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we remember the peoples of Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine.

For all who are seeking refuge, who are facing immigration challenges, who have been deported to homes that are not home, and who have been separated from their families.

*(revised 4/14/2025)*

## **Serving the Community:**

Carrie Ballenger, *Pastor*

Gracious Moyo, *Associate Pastor*

Laurel Oberstadt-Petrik, *Ministry Intern*

Kristian Kohler, *Office Administrator*

Lorraine Fitzmaurice, *Music Director–Choir / Building Manager*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director–Organ*

Hanqi Zhang, *Tech Verger*

Mary Pederson Metelmann, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

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

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



Eugenio Hansen, “Alpha and Omega” (2010), drawing. Permission granted for non-commercial reproduction. Downloaded from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School Library (Nashville, TN).