



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Truth – Relevance – Inspiration

Saturday, April 3 at 4:00

The Vigil of Easter – 2021



Today's service is **Vigil of Easter** (Adapted from Lutheran Service Altar Book, 529-551)

WELCOME TO DIVINE SERVICE: *We gather to receive God's gifts through Word and Sacrament!*

- ✦ **Visitors:** *Welcome! Please receive a visitor basket (available in our Narthex).*
- ✦ **Prayer Request:** *See a "yellow" card (Narthex).*
- ✦ **Young Children:** *Activity bags (by worship entrance); Little Lamb Room (off Narthex).*
- ✦ **Phone:** *Please silence.*
- ✦ **Hearing Assistance:** *Available in Narthex.*

PARKING LOT CHURCH and MORE:

- **Seating:** *Sit in a RESERVED pew, loft, or CLR.*
- **Not comfortable inside:** *Receive at our main entrance; then listen from your car (FM 89.9)*

VIGIL OF EASTER EXPLANATION:

It is celebrated later on Holy Saturday to usher in the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. In some places throughout the centuries of the Church's life, the people of God would hold vigil, which means "keep watch," through the night in expectation of Christ's return.

While making a vigil through the night may not be common today, Christians nonetheless gather on Holy Saturday to wait in expectation for the news of Christ's resurrection and for His second coming.

The Vigil of Easter includes six Services: *of Light, *of Readings, *of Holy Baptism, *of Prayer, *of the Word, and *of the Sacrament.

SERVICE OF LIGHT



All lights are off in the Chancel, Nave, and Narthex.
We all gather and stand in the Narthex.

CB: The Christ Candle is held and lit in the Narthex.

- L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**
- L: Beloved in the Lord, on this most holy night, in which Our Lord Jesus passed over from death into life, we are gathered here in vigil and in prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing His Word and celebrating His Sacraments, we share in His victory over death.
- L: Let us pray. O God, You are like a refiner's fire, and Your Spirit enkindles the hearts of Your faithful people with the fire of Your love. Bless, we implore You, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with You, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.**
- L: Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and the Omega. His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now

and forever. By His wounds we have healing both now and forever.

C: Amen.

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

L: Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith, who share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Candle Bearer leads us into the Nave.

The Candle Bearer says at the entrance:

CB: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Candle Bearer says in the middle of the Nave:

CB: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Candle Bearer says from the Chancel:

CB: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Candle Bearer puts the Christ Candle in its stand.

L: Rejoice now, all you heav'nly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Rejoice too, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King; know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
L: Let us pray. It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places, with all our heart and mind and voice, praise You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty everlasting God, and Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. For He is the very Paschal Lamb who offered Himself for the sin of the world, who has cleansed us by the shedding of His precious blood.

This is the night when You brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and led them through the Red Sea on dry ground.

This is the night when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality.

This is the night when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night.

Oh, how wonderful and beyond all telling is Your mercy toward us, O God, that to redeem a slave You gave Your Son.

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

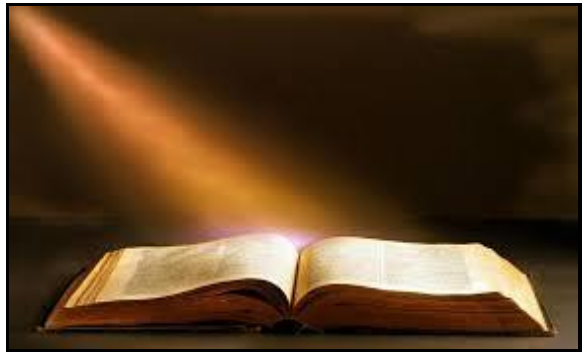
How holy is this night when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast.

How blessed is the night when man is reconciled to God in Christ. Holy Father, accept now the evening sacrifices of our thanksgiving and praise.

Let Christ, the true light and morning star, shine in our hearts, He who gives light to all creation, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. ↓

SERVICE OF READINGS



L: In this most holy night our Savior, Christ the Lord, broke the power of death and by His resurrection brought life and salvation to all creation. Let us praise the Lord, for He truly keeps His word. The sun of righteousness has dawned upon us who have sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

FIRST READING – The Creation

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

CB: [The Reading...](#)

CB: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

CB: Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity. Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SECOND READING – The Flood

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

L: [The Reading...](#)

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: Let us pray. O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and

perverse generation, and yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark. ➔ Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ's body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THIRD READING – Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea Exodus 14:10 – 15:1

CB: [The Reading...](#)

CB: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

CB: Let us pray. O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety. Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

FOURTH READING – The Fiery Furnace Daniel 3:1-30

L: [The Reading...](#)

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: Let us pray. O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM



L: On this holiest of nights, the whole Church of our Lord Jesus Christ recalls His death and burial, rejoicing with great joy in the Gospel of His glorious and mighty resurrection from the dead.

The apostle Paul says: [Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus \(Romans 6:3-11\).](#)

L: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all.

You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism.

Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold us all according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die.

Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Do you renounce the devil?

C: Yes, I renounce him.

L: Do you renounce all his works?

C: Yes, I renounce them.

L: Do you renounce all his ways?

C: Yes, I renounce them.

L: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

C: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

C: Amen.

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

C: Amen.

L: Peace be with you.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD



EASTER ACCLAMATION:

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

CB: All lights in the Chancel and Nave are turned on.

↑ HYMN OF PRAISE: *This Is the Feast*

See the words below / LSB 155

Refrain: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia.

1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. **Refrain**
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. **Refrain**
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men. **Refrain**
4. For the Lamb _____ who was slain__ has be - gun his reign. Al-le-lu-----ia. **Refrain**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY:

L: The LORD be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: *Let us pray.* O God, You made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection. Preserve in us the spirit of adoption which You have given so that, made alive in body and soul, we may serve You purely; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O LORD.**
(The reading)

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** ↓

OFFERTORY

OFFERING: An offering plate is available for your use in the center aisle near the organ. We express our trust in God and thanks for His gifts when we tithe!

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LORD'S SUPPER SELF-EXAMINATION:

BEFORE RECEIVING – See below. For an explanation, read the “New Visitors” brochure or contact Pastor.

Do you understand and agree?

1. I believe the Bible is God’s Word!
2. I am baptized!
3. I am sorry for my sins!
4. I believe in Jesus for eternal life!
5. I desire to live for Christ!
6. I believe the Lord’s Supper is Jesus’ very body and blood, along with the bread and wine, to assure me of God’s forgiveness!

Visitors / Non-Members: *Please share your contact information with the pastor! Thanks!*

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION NOTES:

1. **Pulpit side;** line up in the center aisle – *keep whatever distance is comfortable for you.*
2. Receive the Supper; then return to your pew via the side aisle.
3. **Lectern side;** same as above.
4. Those receiving in their pews.

↑ LORD’S PRAYER: *See back of either hymnal*

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A: **Our Father who art in heaven...**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD: *Spoken on the evening before He finished His saving work!*

PAX DOMINI: *The Peace of the Lord*

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI: *Lamb of God*

See the words below / LSB 550

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,

And to become the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!

O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. ↓

DURING DISTRIBUTION: Silence and Reflection

LORD’S SUPPER DISMISSAL

COLLECT:

L: Let us pray. O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

L: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: **Amen.**

Thanks for Attending!

Join Us on Easter Sunday

Divine Service at 9:00

Easter Brunch at 10:30

Thanks for Serving

Candle Bearer: _____

Smart Recorder: Kathy Green



Connect With Us

Website:	BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com	Podcast:	"Benefit from the Bible" (listen to the sermons)	
Facebook:	"Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma"	Address:	7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134	
Church Office:	Monday – Thursday, 9:30 to 3:30	Kathy Green:	Secretary@blc7500.com ; 440-845-2230	
Childcare Center:	Monday – Friday, 6:45-6:00	Tricia Wise:	ChildcareDirector@blc7500.com ; 440-884-0430	
Pastor Green:	RevRLGreen@aol.com ; 440-292-5915	Church Body:	lcms.org	District: oh.lcms.org