

THE VIGIL OF EASTER



April 20, 2019
6:30 pm
Mt Hermon Lutheran Church
West Columbia, SC

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin.

*Please note that all of the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.*

Worship this week is filled with drama. The church is in continuous worship all week long. The various services are designed as if they are one long service with many parts. Not all elements of worship are contained in each day's service, such as the confession and forgiveness, the sermon, or communion. Some elements of worship only occur during these days such as the procession with the Cross and the words at this Vigil.

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. We gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, and affirm our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. In its fullest proclamation, the Vigil moves at midnight into the first service of Easter. We will be concluding our Vigil before the announcement of Easter. We will pick up the service when we return for worship on Easter morn.

We welcome all to worship this evening. If you are a newcomer, we invite you to sign the pew pads also so that we can greet you more fully. If you have questions about the service, please ask one of the ushers or those sitting around you.

THE GATHERING

All gather in silence outside around the new fire of Easter.

A small unlighted candle is given to each worshiper. Battery operated votives are available for all who prefer them.

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.

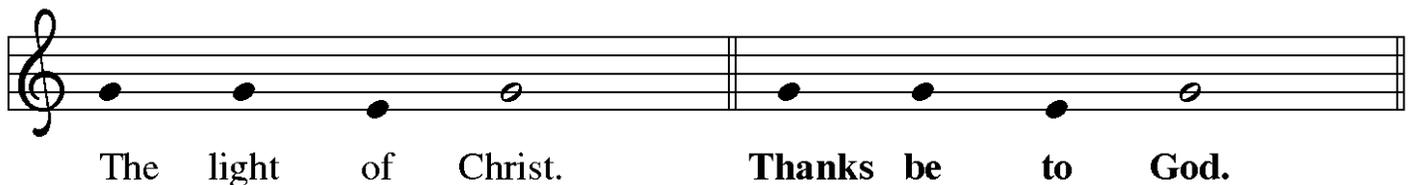
Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, we proclaim our hope and await the resurrection dawn.

The pastor lights the paschal candle, using a stick or taper from the fire and says:

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

PROCESSION

The procession begins, led by the assisting minister bearing the paschal candle. The candles of the worshipers are lit once we arrive at the entrance to the Nave. Along the way, we sing:



The paschal candle is placed in its stand.

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.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

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. ***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. ***This is the night.***
in which the darkness of sin has been
purged away by the rising brightness.

This is the night. ***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. ***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. ***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. ***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.
Amen.

Silence for reflection.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray.

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.

We sit. Handheld candles are extinguished.

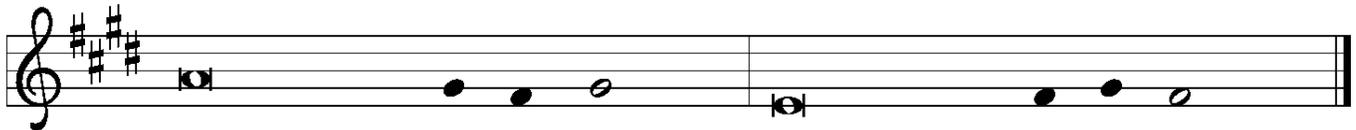
THE VIGIL OF READINGS

THE STORY OF CREATION

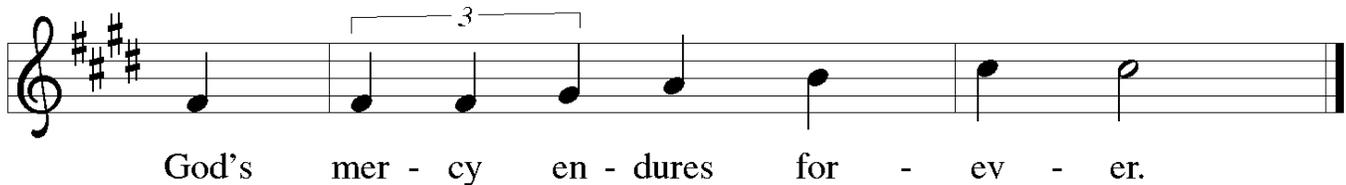
READING: Genesis 1-2:4a

RESPONSE TO THE READING: Psalm 136

The Psalm Tone



The Refrain



¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

²***Give thanks to the | God of gods,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.***

³Give thanks to the | Lord of lords,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

⁴***who alone | does great wonders,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;***

⁵who by wisdom | made the heavens,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

⁶***who spread out the earth up- | on the waters,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever; R***

⁷who made | the great lights—
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

⁸***the sun to gov- | ern the day,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;***

⁹the moon and the stars to gov- | ern the night,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

²³***who remembered us in our | low estate,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;***

²⁴and rescued us | from our enemies,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever;

²⁵***who gives food | to all creatures,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.***

²⁶Give thanks to the | God of heaven,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever. **R**

We are silent.

THE PSALM 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.

DELIVERANCE AT THE SEA

READING: Exodus 15: 1b-13, 17-18

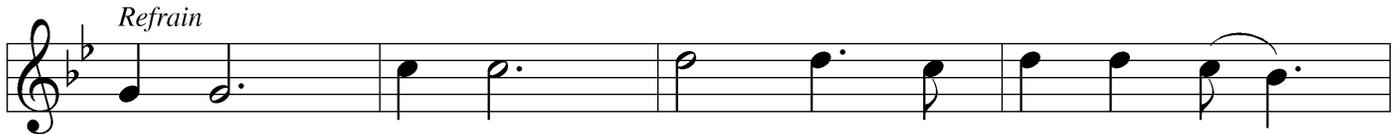
HYMN RESPONSE



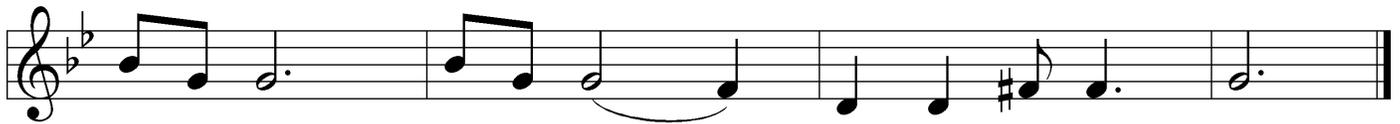
- 1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,
2 The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo - ple go;
3 The pillar of cloud shall clear the way,
4 As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side,



op - pressed so hard they could not stand,
to lead the childr'n of Is - rael through, let my peo - ple go.
a fire by night, a shade by day,
at God's com - mand it did di - vide,



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



tell old Pha - raoh: Let my peo - ple go!

- 5 When they had reached the other shore,
let my people go;
they sang the song of triumph o'er,
let my people go. *Refrain*
- 6 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
let my people go;
and let us all in Christ be free,
let my people go. *Refrain*

We are silent.

PSALM 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.**

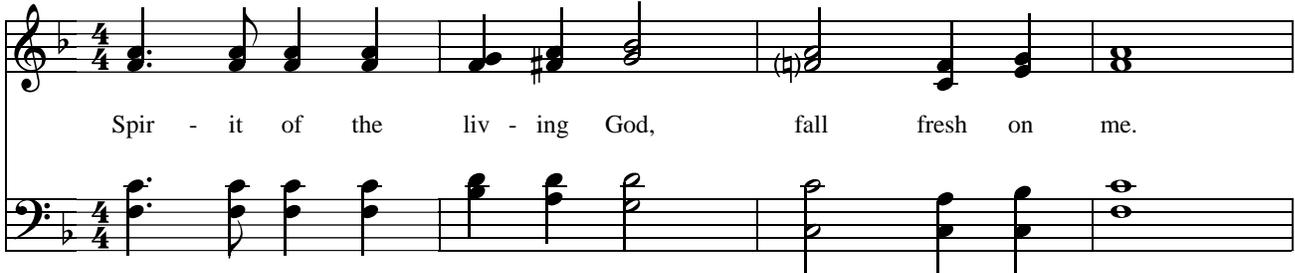
THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

READING: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

HYMN RESPONSE *Spirit of the Living God*

W&P 129

F B \flat 6 D/A Gm F/C C 7 F



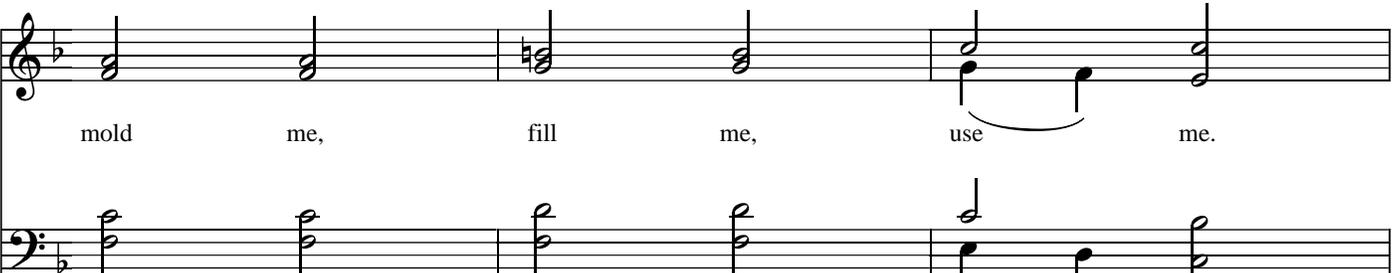
Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

5 B \flat 6 D/A Gm F/C B \flat /C C 7 F B \flat



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me,

10 F G 7 /F C/E Dm 7 C 7



mold me, fill me, use me.

13 F B \flat 6 D/A Gm F/C B \flat /C C 7 F



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

We are silent.

PSALM 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.

DELIVERANCE FROM THE FIERY FURNACE

READING: Daniel 3:1-29

We are silent.

PSALM 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.

The paschal candle leads us to the baptismal font as we sing the Litany of the Saints.

Leader Assembly

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Be gra - cious to us: **Hear us, O God.**
 De - liv - er your people: **Hear us, O God.**

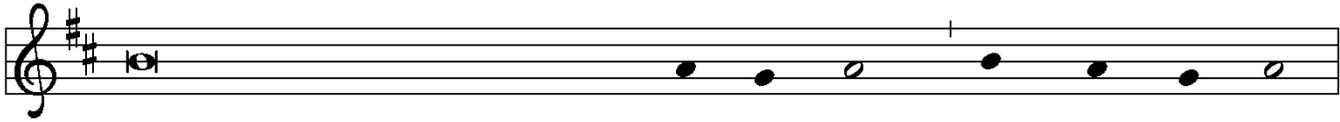
You loved us before the world was made: **Hear us, O God.**
 You rescued the people of your promise: **Hear us, O God.**
 You spoke through your prophets: **Hear us, O God.**
 You gave your only Son for the life of the world: **Hear us, O God.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: **Great is your love.**
 and was born of the vir - gin Mary: **Great is your love.**
 who by his cross and suffering re - deemed the world: **Great is your love.**
 and has washed us from our sins: **Great is your love.**
 who on the third day rose from the dead: **Great is your love.**
 and has given us the vic - to - ry: **Great is your love.**
 who ascend - ed on high: **Great is your love.**
 and intercedes for us at the right hand of God: **Great is your love.**

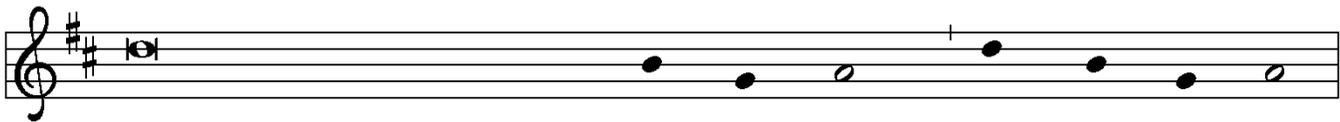
For the gift of the Ho - ly Spirit: **Thanks be to God.**
 For the one holy catholic and apos - tol - ic church: **Thanks be to God.**
 For the great cloud of witnesses
 into which we are bap - tized: **Thanks be to God.**



For Sarah and Abraham, Isaac and Re - bekah: **Thanks be to God.**
For Gideon and Deborah, Da - vid and Esther: **Thanks be to God.**
For Moses and Isaiah, Jeremi - ah and Daniel: **Thanks be to God.**
For Miriam and Rahab, Abi - gail and Ruth: **Thanks be to God.**



For Mary, mother of our Lord: **Thanks be to God.**
For John, who baptized in the Jordan: **Thanks be to God.**
For Mary Magdalene and Joanna, Ma - ry and Martha: **Thanks be to God.**
For James and John, Pe - ter and Andrew: **Thanks be to God.**
For Paul and Apollos, Ste - phen and Phoebe: **Thanks be to God.**



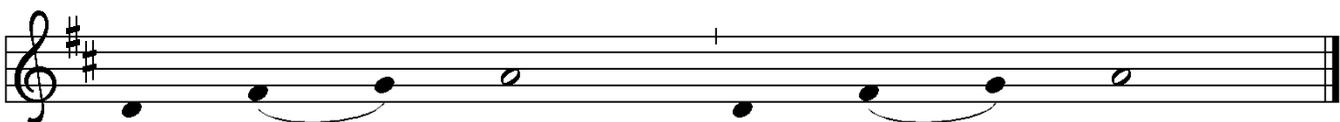
For all holy men and women,
our mothers and fa - thers in faith: **Thanks be to God.**
For the noble band of the prophets: **Thanks be to God.**
For the glorious company of the a - postles: **Thanks be to God.**
For the white-robed ar - my of martyrs: **Thanks be to God.**
For cherubim and seraphim,
Michael and the ho - ly angels: **Thanks be to God.**



Be gra - cious to us: **Hear us, O God.**
De - liv - er your people: **Hear us, O God.**



Give new life to your servants by the grace of baptism: **Hear us, O God.**
Strengthen all who bear the sign of the cross: **Hear us, O God.**
Clothe us in compas - sion and love: **Hear us, O God.**
Bring us with all your saints to the riv - er of life: **Hear us, O God.**



Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

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

We 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 of baptism, and 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;
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.***

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.***

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?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

We pray together.

We give you thanks, O God, which 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.

HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Our worship is ended this night and will continue with the Festival Service of Easter at 9am tomorrow morning!



3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169
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Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Ruthie Brannen, <i>Cantor</i>		RuthieBrannen@gmail.com
Susan LaCons, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	803.794.6430	office@mthlc.org

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President, *Terry Swygert*

Secretary, *Alyson Price*

Financial Secretary, *Annette Price*

Vice President, *Ronnie Fulmer*

Treasurer, *Emily Morris*

Sextons, *Ricky Bouknight,*

Allison & Terry Swygert

Sunday, April 21, 2019 ~ Easter Sunday

7:00 – 8:00am Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

8:00 – 8:20am Flowering of the Cross, Front Lawn

8:30 am Special Music, Sanctuary

9:00 am Holy Communion Worship

10:15 am Sunday School