



Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil | Eucharist
Saturday, April 4, 2026, 5 p.m.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Exploring the promise of God for all

You are welcome. No exceptions.

Central Lutheran Church experiences God's expansive love and strives to share it abundantly. We affirm all people without regard to age, race, biological sex, housing status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration, refugee or migration status, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, and physical or mental health or ability. All are a part of God's family, created in God's image.

We strive to practice radical hospitality with all people and work toward racial equity. Everyone is invited to immerse themselves in the life of this community of faith as we explore the promise of God for all.

Worship



Bold print indicates responses spoken by all.



Congregational hymns are found printed in this bulletin or in the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW).



You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand or remain seated at any point in the service.



Masks are welcome, but not required.



Children are welcome and celebrated in worship. Each Sunday there are Children's Bags at each of the ushers' tables at the entrances to the sanctuary. Inside each bag is a worship activity and snack. Many families sit near the children's tables next to the baptismal font, but you are welcome to sit anywhere in the sanctuary that is comfortable to you.



All are welcome to receive communion at Central. At the ushers' invitation, you will proceed toward the altar where there are regular and gluten-free wafers served with wine or grape juice. Your server will offer bread and wine for all, including children. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, please let your server know.



Offering can be made online using the QR code in the bulletin or left in the offering plates just outside the sanctuary doors.

MEMBERS OF:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | www.elca.org

Align Minneapolis | www.alignmpls.org

ReconcilingWorks | www.reconcilingworks.org

MNIPL Climate Justice Congregation | www.mnipl.org





After worship and leaders have entered the sanctuary, the Paschal candle is lit from a new flame. The presence of Christ among us is proclaimed three times.

The Exsultet (the name of this ancient prayer comes from the first words of the Latin text meaning "Rejoice") is one of the historical treasures that have served Christians not only in the past but also will into the future. As the Exsultet is sung worshippers (in the sanctuary or online) are invited to share Christ's light with each other with the word "The light of Christ" to which the one receiving the candle flame responds "Thanks be to God!"

The service begins with a brazier prepared for the Easter fire. Each person is given a candle.

Gathering

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.

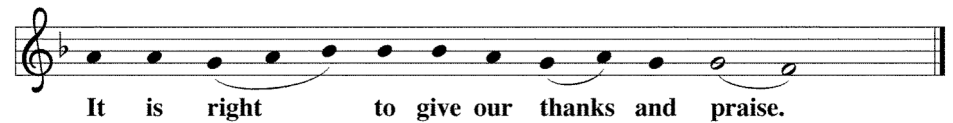
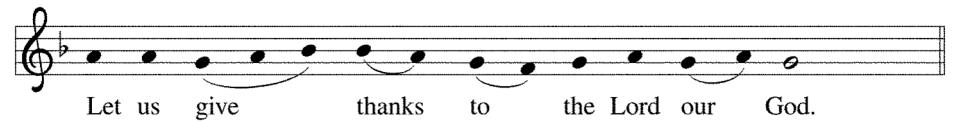
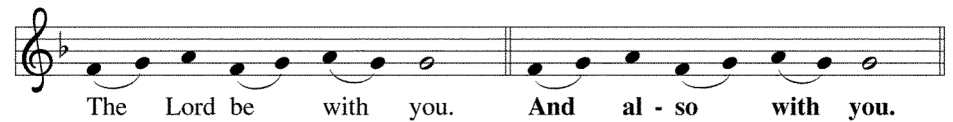
LIGHTING OF THE NEW FIRE

Sung 3 times:



EXSULTET

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers...echoing the mighty song of all God's people.



It is indeed right...one God, now and forever.



(Please be seated and extinguish your candles)

Word

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1--2:3



*This reading is adapted
from The Message Bible
by Eugene Peterson.*

First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

God spoke: "Light!" And light appeared. God saw that light was good and separated Day and Night. It was evening, it was morning— Day One.

God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!" God made sky. God separated the water under sky from the water above sky.

And there it was: God named sky the Heavens; It was evening, it was morning— Day Two.

God spoke: "Separate! Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place; Land, appear!" And there it was. God named the land Earth. God named the pooled water Ocean. God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants, every sort of fruit-bearing tree." And there it was. Earth produced green seed-bearing plants, all varieties, and fruit-bearing trees of all sorts. God saw that it was good. It was evening, it was morning—Day Three.

God spoke: "Lights! Come out! Shine in Heaven's sky! Separate Day from Night. Mark seasons and days and years, lights in Heaven's sky to give light to Earth." And there it was. God made two big lights, the larger to take charge of Day, the smaller to be in charge of Night; and God made the stars. God placed them in the heavenly sky to light up Earth and oversee Day and Night, to separate light and dark. God saw that it was good. It was evening, it was morning— Day Four.

God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life! Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!" God created the huge whales, all the swarm of life in the waters, and every kind and species of flying birds.

It was evening, it was morning— Day Five.

God spoke: "Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind: cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds." And there it was: wild animals of every kind, every sort of reptile and bug. God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflect our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."

God created human beings; God created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. God created them from male to female.

God blessed them.

"Prosper! Live, enjoy and fill the earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."

Then God said, "I give, I provide, I sustain." And there it was. God

looked over everything God had made; it was so good, so very good! It was evening, it was morning— Day Six.

Heaven and Earth were finished, down to the last detail. By the seventh day God had finished this work. On the seventh day God rested from all this work.

God blessed the seventh day. God made it a Holy Day because on that day God rested from this work, all the creating God had done.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

RESPONSE

Hymn 736

“God the Sculptor of Mountains”

PRAYER

(Please be seated)

SECOND READING

Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4

⁹ Hear, O Israel, the commandments of life;
give ear and learn wisdom!

¹⁰ Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies,
that you are growing old in a foreign land,

¹¹ that you are defiled with the dead,
that you are counted among those in Hades?

¹² You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom.

¹³ If you had walked in the way of God,
you would be living in peace forever.

¹⁴ Learn where there is wisdom,
where there is strength,
where there is understanding,
so that you may at the same time discern
where there is length of days and life,
where there is light for the eyes and peace.

¹⁵ Who has found her place,
and who has entered her storehouses?

³² But the one who knows all things knows her;
he found her by his understanding.

The one who prepared the earth for all time
filled it with four-footed creatures;

³³ the one who sends forth the light and it goes,
he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling;

³⁴ the stars shone in their watches and were glad;

³⁵ he called them, and they said, “Here we are!”

They shone with gladness for him who made them.

³⁶ This is our God;
no other can be compared to him.



³⁷ He found the whole way to knowledge
and gave her to his servant Jacob
and to Israel, whom he loved.
³⁸ Afterward she appeared on earth
and lived with humankind.
^{4:1} She is the book of the commandments of God,
the law that endures forever.
All who hold her fast will live,
and those who forsake her will die.
² Turn, O Jacob, and take her;
walk toward the shining of her light.
³ Do not give your glory to another
or your advantages to a foreign nation.
⁴ Happy are we, O Israel,
for we know what is pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

Psalm 19



Choir: ¹ *The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.*
² *One day tells its tale | to another;
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.*

All: ³ **Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,
⁴ their sound has gone out into all lands, and their mes-
sage to the ends | of the world,
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**

Choir: ⁵ *It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.*
⁶ *It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and
runs about to the end of | it again;
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.*

All: ⁷ **The teaching of the Lord is perfect and re- | vives the
soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom
to | the simple.**
⁸ **The statutes of the Lord are just and re- | joice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives
light | to the eyes.**



FOURTH READING

Daniel 3:1-29

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ 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, ⁴ the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ 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. ⁶ Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.” ⁷ 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.

⁸ Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹² There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men 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.”

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in, so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ 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?”

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷ 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 him deliver us. ¹⁸ 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.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

“The Renewing of Nebuchadnezzar”

Ben Longman

PRAYER

Affirmation of Baptism

(Please stand)



BAPTISMAL HYMN

*“Take Me to the Water”

1 Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter,
 2 I . . . love . . Je - sus, I . . . love . . Je - sus,
 3 He's . . my . . Sav - ior, he's . . my . . Sav - ior,
 4 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
 I . . . love . . Je - sus, oh, yes, I do.
 he's . . my . . Sav - ior, oh, yes, he is.
 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: TAKE ME TO THE WATER, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, 1935–2009
 Arr. © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**Many African American spirituals and hymns were never credited to their creators or were claimed by other individuals. On weekends when Central uses music or music texts created by people who were kept in chattel slavery, a donation will be made to a Historical Black College and University (HBCU) as a reparation to their descendants. For 2026, Central will be sending donations to Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas.*

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

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... 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 evil 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. Amen.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to
continue...and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

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
have made...the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymn 449

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

GOSPEL

Luke 24:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb,
taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled
away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body.



This historic homily comes from Melito of Sardis, who died in 180 AD.

⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

(Please be seated)

HISTORIC HOMILY

(Please stand)

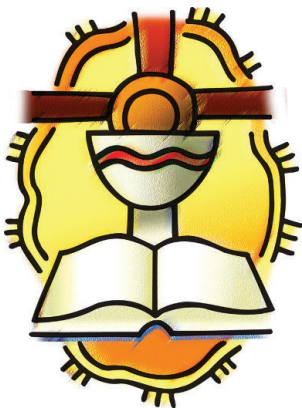
HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn 370

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”

Meal

GREAT THANKSGIVING



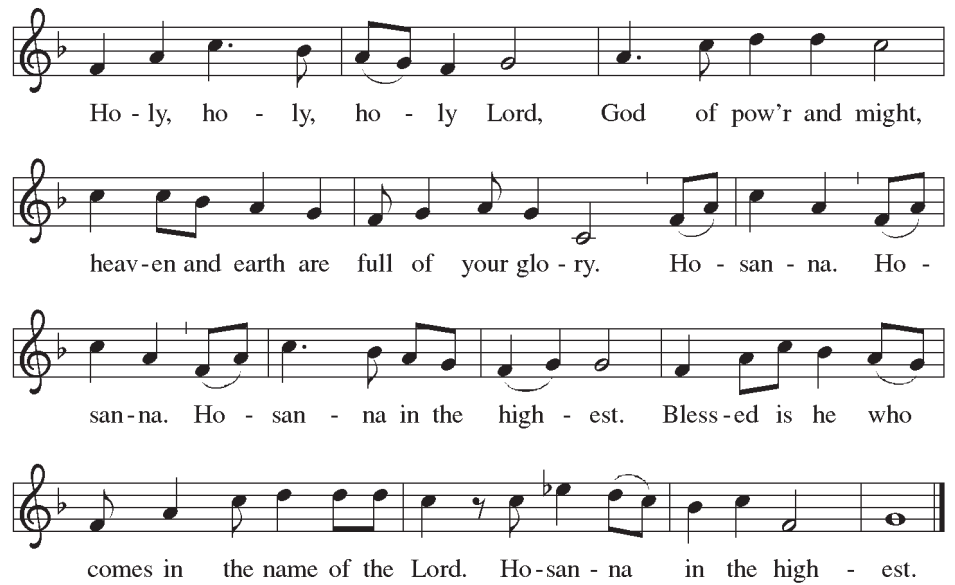
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right...join in their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

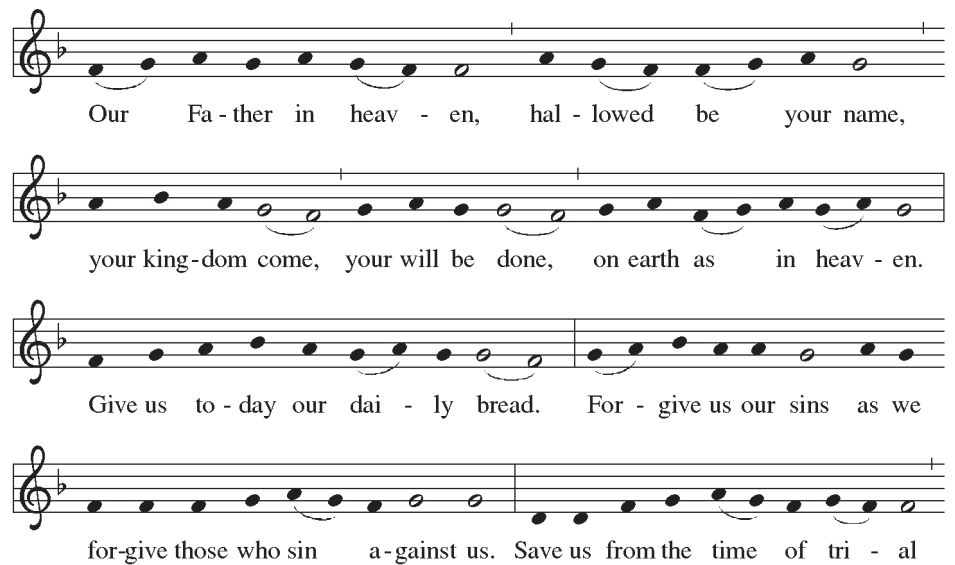
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

As Easter people, at home in God's new life, we sing together the prayer Jesus taught:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

(Please be seated)

All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

Children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION

“Lamb of God”

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

“O God Beyond All Praising”

Gustav Holst,
arr. Dan Forrest

*O God beyond all praising, we worship You today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before You and wait upon Your word,
we honor and adore You, our great and mighty Lord.
For Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through Him are given the final victory.
Then hear; O gracious Saviour, accept our love that we,
we who know Your favor may serve you as our King.
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still:
To marvel at Your beauty and glory in Your ways,
make a joyful duty our song of praise. Our sacrifice of praise.*

– Michael Perry

“The Day of Resurrection!”

Hymn 361



Scan to make a financial offering.



(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Sending

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Hymn 382

“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is alive! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong
Bands,” BWV 625

Setting, Johann Sebastian Bach

Fill My Cup

Pen and ink on paper

By Steve Prince

Inspired by Luke 24:1-12

For me, to not know Christ is to live a life thirsty for truth, meaning, understanding, and purpose. We search and search and it feels like we cannot find the thing that we were hoping for. It is not until we surrender and trust in faith that we are able to find peace. We must open the door of our hearts to allow the Holy Spirit to enter and to do the work. Many will see us and not believe that the peace we exude is real, looking at us with skeptical eyes. Many will come thirsty, wondering from whence cometh our help, and some will know, and they shall rejoice for we have seen the light. Our daily prayer is that God will have us thirst no more and fill our cup.

—Steve Prince

Serving Today

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>preacher</i>
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>presiders</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	
Pat Hansen	<i>assisting</i>
Michael Acuña Dee	<i>crucifer</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Joe Osowski	<i>choir director</i>
Ben Longman	<i>musicians</i>
Kevin Longman	
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Henry Rye	<i>organ scholar</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>
Central Young Adults	<i>host</i>

Thanks to:

Additional Readers, Service Leaders, Sacristans, Ushers,
Hospitality Ministry Team, Décor Team, and all participants.

We welcome Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran (BOLD) Church! It is a gift to be partners in ministry. Thank you to Deacon Dorothy Sparks, Rev. Catrina Ciccone, and the members of BOLD for leading worship and participating in this year's Easter Vigil.

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MINNEAPOLIS

An Everyday Church for Everyone

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