



*Easter Vigil
April 3, 2021*

*7:00 p.m. at Big Spring United Lutheran Church
Combined service for the
Newville area Lutheran Churches*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding: Rev. Molly Haggerty

Presiding: Vicar Andrew Berdahl, Presiding

Musician: Mr. Nathan Grippin

Readers: BSULC, Centerville, St. Matthew, Zion

Bonfire Control: Vicar Andrew Berdahl

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The *congregation*, or participants, *respond* with the lines in *bold type*.

Vigil of Easter
Saturday, April 3, 2021
7:00 p.m. at Big Spring United Lutheran Church

Service of Light

The lighting of a new fire takes place outside the church building. All gather in silence. A small unlighted candle may be given to each worshiper.

GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

P 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, 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.

P Just as in the beginning God created light banishing the darkness, so now this fire illuminates the night.

P Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending. To Christ belongs all time and all the ages; to Christ belongs glory and dominion now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The presiding minister lights the paschal candle from the new fire

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

The procession begins into a tent with chairs social distanced, led by the assisting minister bearing the paschal candle. As the procession begins, the assisting minister lifts the paschal candle high.

(pre-recorded chant plays)

The procession continues. The assisting minister lifts the paschal candle high and sings a second time.

(pre-recorded chant plays)

Having arrived before the chancel, the assisting minister takes the paschal candle to its stand, lifts it high and sings a third time.

(pre-recorded chant plays)

The paschal candle is placed in its stand at the beginning of the tent area the congregation lights their individual candles. Please tip your unlit candle to receive the light from the person next to you.

As the Proclamation continues, additional candles in the worship space are also lit from the paschal candle. The prayer sand pit is placed near the altar. People can place their candles in the pit and say a prayer and take a seat

EASTER PROCLAMATION

☐ Rejoice, now, all heavenly choirs of angels, and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and, for the victory of so great a King, sound the trumpet of salvation. Exult, also, O earth, enlightened with such radiance; and, made brilliant by the splendor of the eternal King, know that the ancient darkness has been banished from all the world. Be glad also, O mother Church, clothed with the brightness of such a light, and let this house resound with the triumphant voices of the peoples.

☐ It is indeed right and salutary that we should with full devotion of heart and mind and voice praise the invisible God, the Father almighty, and his only Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ; who paid for us the debt of Adam to the eternal Father, and who by his precious blood redeemed us from the 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 in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, from the land of Egypt; and led them, dryshod, through the Red Sea.

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 holiness, by the rising brightness.

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 the hour wherein Christ arose again from hell! O night truly blessed in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O Lord, that he, in whose honor this candle burns, will continue to vanquish the darkness of this night and faithfully shed light on all the human race; through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and rules with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

SERVICE OF READINGS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a
The Creation

Silence for reflection.

Second Reading: Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13
The Flood

Silence for reflection.

Third Reading: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
Deliverance at the Red Sea

Silence for reflection.

Fourth Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Valley of the Dry Bones

Silence for reflection.

Response: Psalm 143

L/C by whole verse

¹LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; answer me in your righteousness. ²Enter not into judgment with your servant, for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

³**For my enemy has sought my life and has crushed me to the ground, making me live in dark places like those who are long dead. ⁴My spirit faints within me; my heart within me is desolate.**

⁵I remember the time past; I ponder all your deeds; I consider the works of your hands. ⁶I spread out my hands to you; my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.

⁷**O LORD, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the pit. ⁸Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning, for I put my trust in you; show me the road that I must walk, for I lift up my soul to you.**

⁹Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD, for I flee to you for refuge. ¹⁰Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; let your good spirit lead me on level ground.

¹¹**Revive me, O LORD, for your name's sake; for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble. ¹²In your steadfast love, destroy my enemies and bring all my foes to naught, for truly I am your servant.**

***Fifth Reading: Daniel 3:1-29
Deliverance from the fiery furnace***

Silence for reflection.

***C* It is Easter! We celebrate God's triumph of light over darkness and death over life. We declare to the world that Jesus has risen indeed!**

EASTER GREETING

- ☑** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☑** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☑** Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑** Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 6:3-11

- ☐** The word of the Lord.
- ☑** Thanks be to God.

Silence for reflection.

The Holy Gospel: John 20:1-18

- ☐** The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 20th chapter.
- ☑** Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel is proclaimed.

- ☐** The Gospel of the Lord.
- ☑** Praise to you, O Christ.

Service of Holy Baptism

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

Parents: We present **Addison Rose Puhak-Fickes** for baptism.

P Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Addison baptized into Christ?

Response: *I do.*

P As you bring Addison to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P Do you promise to help Addison grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: *I do.*

P Do you promise to nurture Addison in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help Addison live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: *I do.*

P People of God, do you promise to support Addison and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P 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?

Response: *I renounce them.*

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

Response: *I renounce them.*

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

Response: *I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

C **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 into hell.

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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. In the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BAPTISM

P Addison Rose Puhak-Fickes, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When all are baptized, the congregation responds:

C Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Addison with 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.

C Amen.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

P Addison, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C Amen.

WELCOME

A Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

A Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Addison Rose Puhak-Fickes. Let us pray for her as she is washed in the waters of the Holy Baptism, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

During the hymn, water from the font is sprinkled on the assembly. Worshippers may trace the sign of the cross upon themselves in remembrance of their baptism.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

P Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed on us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P God of glory,

C receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

☐ The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

A; Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

POSTLUDE INSTRUMENTAL

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

*Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from **Words for Worship**, copyright 2010 Augsburg Fortress; **Vigil of Easter liturgy** from **Evangelical Lutheran Worship**, copyright 2006. Used by permission.*

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Collaboration of the Big Spring Area Lutheran Churches

Big Spring United Lutheran Church

Website: www.bsulc.org

Facebook: [@bigspringunitedlutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/@bigspringunitedlutheranchurch)

Center Lutheran Church

Website: www.centerlutheranchurch.com

Facebook:

Center Evangelical Lutheran Church–Newville, PA-
ELCA

Centerville Lutheran Church

Website: www.thewestcumberlandparish.org

Facebook: [@centervillelutheran](https://www.facebook.com/@centervillelutheran)

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Website: www.thewestcumberlandparish.org

Facebook:

[@stmatthewevangelicallutheranchurchPlainfield](https://www.facebook.com/@stmatthewevangelicallutheranchurchPlainfield)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Website: n/a

Facebook:

St. Peter's Lutheran Church (Newville PA) ELCA

Zion Lutheran Church

Website: www.zionnewville.org

Facebook: [@zionnewville](https://www.facebook.com/@zionnewville)

This Is the Night

It has to be dark: earth formless, Pharaoh advancing, Jesus dead and buried. Only when it is fully dark can the fire be kindled and the candle lit. In the night, God acts. Sparks fly, and the light is good. A pillar of fire leads slaves to freedom. The flickering reflection of a tiny flame dances off the walls to break the gloom: the light of Christ, risen in glory.

Chaos yields to rhythm and form. Waves curl back to reveal dry ground. The Israelites cross safely, and those drawn to Christ enter baptismal waters or renew baptismal vows. This is the night when chains are broken and we are reborn. This is the night for celebrating resurrection. This is the night for keeping watch, for passing over, for making music along the shore: Sing to the LORD who has triumphed gloriously! (Exod. 15:1).

But it is still dark when Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb. To her perplexity, the stone has been removed and the body is gone. Only when the glorified Jesus calls her by name is she able to turn and see. Once the prophet Elijah had given Elisha his mantle and then ascended to heaven while Elisha watched. Now Jesus gives Mary Magdalene a glimpse of his own ascension. "I have seen the Lord," she tells the new community of brothers and sisters created by his resurrection. In the risen body of Christ is where his presence now dwells, where we learn to call one another by name and turn and see and sing. The candle flame is divided yet undimmed; shared, it grows stronger.

This is the night for feasting on milk and honey, on bread and wine, on promises fulfilled. This is the night for laughter and joy and singing in the dark: The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation (Exod. 15:2; Ps. 118:14).