

Holy Saturday Worship
The Vigil of Easter Omniscient-- Ruler
March 30, 2024

Opening Prayer *///* **Opening Hymn:** *“This Holy Night”* (Tune 461)

This Holy Night Jesus pro-claimed for us Vic-to-ry over sin and death
He told all hell He had won for us Life everlasting, joy, and love.

Jesus was now the Vic-tor strong No longer suf-fer-ing from pain
He was vic-to-ri-ous over all He stood and de-clared hope for all

Jesus pro-claimed His power and might Standing before the pow’rs of hell
He car-ried out the Father’s will He had brought life to all mankind.

Jesus announced that He would rise That their defeat was now complete
He would rise as the Lord of life He was The Lamb, The Hope, the Price.

Invocation: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: On this night our Lord Jesus declared His victory over death to those condemned in hell, and we share in that declaration, as we celebrate with Word and Sacrament. For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ (2 Cor. 4:6). Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” (Eph. 5:8) And may the light of Christ, that’s given us victory over death, scatter all the darkness from us. Amen.

First Lesson: *Isaiah 55: 1-11* *“Salvation Offered to All”*

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to Me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to Me; hear Me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, My faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for He has endowed you with splendor.

Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake His

way and the evil man His thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

P: Almighty God, by Your Word You created and sustain all things, and by Your Spirit You renew Your Creation. Grant us now the blessing of Your Spirit and lead us to grow in the knowledge and truth of Your Word and guide us in our faith; through Jesus Christ, our Victorious Lord. C: Amen.

Hymn: "God Loved the World So that He Gave" 571

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

God would not have the sinner's die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Glory be to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Second Lesson: Ezekiel 36: 24-28 "A New Heart and a New Spirit"

For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God."

P: Almighty and everlasting God, in the miracle of Your victory over death and hell through our justification, You proclaimed we join You in the eternal victory over sin and death. Grant that all who are given a new heart and a new spirit, a newness of life in the fellowship of the body of Christ; through Jesus Christ, our Victorious Lord. C: Amen.

Hymn: “*Rejoice You Heavenly Choir*” (tune 443)

Rejoice you heav’nly choirs, The triumph song ring out. The King has won the vict’ry;
Creation raise a shout. His light, its radiance brilliant Has banished darkness’ reign;
Let all the faithful praise Him And sing the glad refrain.

Thanks be to God the Father, And to the Paschal Lamb, For our release from bondage
To sin and all its shame. This night the victory’s given, Creation dawns anew;
Such love beyond all telling Demands our praises true.

Third Lesson: Holy Gospel: Matthew 27: 62 – 66 *The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how this imposter said, while He was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples go and steal Him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can. So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.*

P: Almighty God, who enabled Your Son to exalt Himself by going to hell to proclaim His victory over sin, death, and Satan himself. Grant us gracious Lord to always place our hope in You and keep us strong in faith; so we one day join all believers in Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Victorious Lord. **C: Amen.**

Hymn: “*Messiah Hymn*” (tune 932)

The Messiah brought new life to All the people that are His
Giving hope and joy abounding By the grace He freely gives
He has always been and will be Forever the God and Lord.
He will be forever Holy And the only God adored.

The Messiah Our Immanuel Came to earth from God above.
Phy-si-cian and one who heals us He grants us goodness and love !
He alone can bring salvation Through His acts of love and grace.
He gives hope, to all His people He brings “light” upon their face!

The Messiah born of Mary One and only Savior Lord
I’m the Healer of the nations From the Father whose adored
“I Am, Who I Am” Almighty “I Am, Who I Am” the King!
I will rule in heaven always As the Shepherd of My sheep.

The Messiah who proclaims to All the people bound in hell
I AM victor, I’M Almighty I AM God and Lord fulfilled
I AM living, I AM ruling I AM proclaiming to all
I AM hope to all the nations I have saved those from the fall.

Children's Sermon /// Sermon

Offering

Prayers: Thiem, Jerely, Kay, Adeline, Lilian, Hadley and Javon; Toelle, April, Luke, Samuel and Evelyn; and Vandergriff, Dylan and Alecia Kalaher, Evelyn and Cedric

Lord's Prayer

Confession of Sins **C:** *Everlasting Father, we confess that our nature is sinful, that we many times defiantly reject Your will and purposely sin against you. We confess that it was our sin that placed Your Son on the cross and made it necessary for Him to be damned in our place. We confess that He had to take our punishment upon Himself to save us from what we deserved. We call upon Your mercy, for His sake, to bring us the forgiveness of our sins. Lead us to delight in Your goodness and walk in Your ways into eternal life. Amen.*

Absolution: Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessing of Elements

Distribution

Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" 507

Holy, Holy, Holy, Though the darkness Hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee, Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
All Your works do praise Your name on earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons blessed Trinity!.

P: O God, who 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 Victorious Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **C:** *Amen.*

Benediction

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Kirk Horstmeyer, Pastor
Beth Vance- Organist

WHAT THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER

In I Corinthians 11 the Holy Spirit led Paul to write, "This is my body" and "This cup is the new covenant in my blood" to explain the spiritual truth of the Supper: Christ is truly present in His body and blood in the bread and wine. This is a mystery, a Heavenly gift; one we can only understand in faith. Paul further says, "Therefore whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" and, "let a man examine himself...for he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly." There is no doubt from our Lord's Word, we are receiving His body and blood. The Father offers us forgiveness, unity of faith, strengthening of faith, etc.; it is never our right, we approach His altar only by His invitation. If you are visiting we ask that you please speak with the Pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. We strive to lovingly carry out our responsibility to ensure the supper remains a blessing for all, never a curse. May His richest blessing be upon you all.

THIS WEEK

TONIGHT: *Holy Saturday* Worship w/HC 5:30

SUNDAY: *Easter Sunrise Service* w/HC 6:30 am, *Easter Breakfast, Easter Worship* w/HC Service at 9:30 am.

TUESDAY: Confirmation 6 pm

THURSDAY: Bible Study 9:30 am and 6:30 pm

Next SATURDAY: Confirmation 9:30 am, Worship w/HC 5:30

Next SUNDAY: Worship w/HC 8 am, SS 9:10 am, Worship w/HC 10:15 am,

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE: Sat, Mar 23: 52 LS: 40; Sun, Mar 24: 8am: 53; 10:15 am: 77; Mid Week: 67

Member Prayer List: Next Saturday and Sunday we will be praying for the families of Vandergriff, Gary and Janet; Vandergriff, Lisa; and Vandergriff, Steve Nolan and Madison.

EASTER LILIES: You can pickup your lily after the 9:30 Easter worship service.

CHURCH FOOD BANK: I want to express my thanks to those who have graciously donated to our Pantry, it has been appreciated and used. We could use once again: canned fruit, cereal, toilet paper, rice noodle or pasta meals in bags, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, raisins, pudding, and dish and laundry soaps. If you can help, thank you!

MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS

HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE will be at 5:30 pm March 30th -- it will be a service of Scripture and Hymns-- is a night of anticipation and celebration

EASTER MORNING WORSHIP: On Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 am

Easter Breakfast starting at 8:20 am

Easter Worship Service at 9:30 am.

******(Please note that the late service starts at 9:30 am-- not at 10:15)******

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY this year will be on April 28 at the 10:15 service. This is an important day for these youth in our congregation, so please ask the Lord to bless that day and those who will be Confirmed.

LWML WEST ZONE MEETING: The LWML West Zone Board cordially invite the Ladies of the LWML West Zone to a meeting on Saturday, April 27th at St. Peters Lutheran Church in Vincennes. The meeting will start at 10 am EST / 9 am CST and should be done by 1:30/12:30 pm. The Ladies of St. Peters will provide a Salad Luncheon. We will be taking up a love offering to help establish our new treasurer's account. The officers will be installed at this time. If you would like to attend, please email/text/call registrations by April 17th. Barb Rastl, rastl@att.net, 812-890-1735 Sheryl Bloebaum, sbloebaum@frontier.com, 812-890-3657