Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 30, 2024 7:00 p.m.

We know that our old self was -Crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed...

ROMANS 6:6, NRSV

"Touched by the Gospel, we seek to be instruments of God's Peace, for the sake of the World."

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

1747 W. Milham Avenue ♦ Portage, MI 49024 Pastor Rachel Laughlin Church phone: 269/343-3453 ♦ fax: 269/343-2025 Website: popportage.org Find us on Facebook: Prince of Peace, Portage, MI-ELCA



Welcome in the name of Christ!

Worshiping with kids?

- ♦ We love having people of all ages and abilities worshiping together!
- Wiggles and noise are welcome!
- Coloring materials are available. Just ask an usher.

Wondering about communion?

- We believe Christ is fully present in the meal and it is Christ who invites us to share it.
- ❖ All are welcome to share communion with us regardless of age or faith tradition.
- ♦ Wheat bread, gluten free wafers, wine, and grape juice are available.

Want to know more about our community?

- We strive to be an open, welcoming place for all people.
- A Pastor Rachel enjoys meeting people after worship but never wants anyone to feel pressured to talk to her. Come say hi!
- Visit the welcome table in the gathering space if you have questions about Lutherans, the Christian faith, or Prince of Peace; if you have a specific prayer request, or want to share your contact information so we can get back to you about something in particular.

Thank you for joining us for worship today. May God bless you and give you peace this week.

EASTER VIGIL SERVICE OF LIGHT

Worshipers responses in bold

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church's year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, reaffirm our baptism, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

The people gather outside the church for the lighting of the New Fire and Paschal Candle.

The New Fire is Lit

Pastor: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness in our hearts and minds.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter Vigil so that, burning with desire for life with you, they may be found fit to take part in that festival of Light which has no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Paschal Candle is Lit

Pastor: May the light of Christ who rises this night in glory scatter the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Cantor: The light of Christ. All: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Let us pray. (*Pause*) Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share this night in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Procession

We process into the Gym.

Repeated 3 times during the procession

Cantor: The Light of Christ!

All: Thanks be to God!

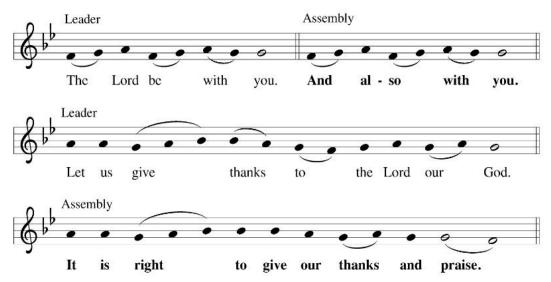
Individual Candles are Lit

As the cantors sing the Exultet the individual candles are lit from the paschal candle, and the light is passed on.

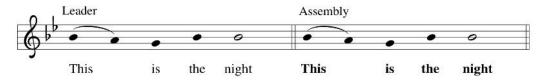
(The person with the lit candle holds their candle upright while the next person lights their candle.)

The Exultet

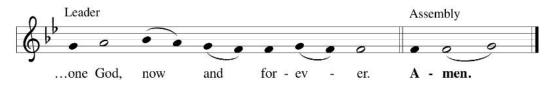
The Cantors sing the Exultet.
The congregation sings where Assembly is noted.



Whenever the Cantors sing "This is the night," the Assembly replies, "This is the night,"



The ending response.



The paschal candle is placed in its stand.



Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: 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.

EASTER VIGIL SERVICE OF READINGS

While we wait in vigil for the resurrection of our Lord, we tell the stories of our faith history, recalling how God has loved and saved God's people throughout history. You may keep your lit candle lit in the box of sand on your table, throughout these readings. We will extinguish the candles when we move to the sanctuary

During the service of readings, please feel free to get up to move around or use the restroom as needed. We are waiting for Christ by telling the stories of the family of faith. The atmosphere is anticipatory and a little casual while we wait.

First Reading The story of creation Genesis 1:1-29, 2:1-4a



Photo by Eric Masur on Unsplash

Hymn



Prayer

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

Second Reading

The story of the flood

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

Song Response

Psalm 46

Refrain first by Cantors, then by All with "tag."

Refrain: God is our refuge and strength, God is our refuge and strength,

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

1,2,3,4, Psalm 46, verse 1 Tag:

Reader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the

earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea; though its waters rage and

foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God Reader:

is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day. Refrain by All

Reader: The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away. The Lord of hosts

is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Refrain by All Reader:

Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought upon the earth; behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Refrain sung twice by all with "tag."

Pastor: O God, strength of the powerless and light in all darkness: Look in mercy upon your church, a wonderful and sacred mystery, that it may be an ark of peace in the midst of chaos. Let the whole world come to see that what was fallen is being raised up, that what was old is being made new, and that all things are being restored to wholeness through the one from whom they first took being, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Third Reading The story of the Exodus Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21

Song Response

"I Will Sing to the Lord" Refrain sung once by choir, then repeated by all. Verses sung by choir, refrain sung by all.





verse 1 Your right hand, O Lord, glories in power, your right hand shatters the enemy! Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders! *Refrain*

verse 2 In your mercy you led forth the people you set free; You guided them in your strength to your holy habitation. You will bring them in and plant them on the mount that is your own! Refrain

Prayer

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

Fourth Reading

Valley of the dry bones

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Prayer

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

Fifth Reading

The deliverance of Jonah

Jonah 1:1-2:1

Response

"Jonah Prayed"
Each phrase sung first by the cantor, then by ALL

Jonah prayed

from the belly of the fish, saying, "Thank you, God; you saved me from death.

You cast me

to the middle of the sea; and waves rose and the billows covered me. As my life was ebbing away

I remembered you, my God;
I lifted up my prayer,
and you answered me.

With grateful heart

I will pay my vows.

Deliverance, Lord.

belongs to you!"

Prayer

Pastor: O God of deliverance, you saved Jonah through the waters of death, and after three days you brought him to new life. Speak to us by this sign, and call us to repentance, that we may heed the voice of your risen Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Sixth Reading

Deliverance from the fiery furnace

Daniel 3:1-29

Prayer

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

All process to the font in the Sanctuary during the hymn.

Hymn

Cantor: All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord. Praise him and magnify him forever. All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

Cantor: You angels of the Lord, bless the Lord; you heavens, bless the Lord; all you powers of the Lord, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

Cantor: You sun and moon, bless the Lord; you stars of heaven, bless the Lord; you showers and dew, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

Cantor: You winds of God, bless the Lord; you fire and heat, bless the Lord; you winter and summer, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

Cantor: You dews and frost, bless the Lord; you frost and cold, bless the Lord; you ice and snow, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

Cantor: You nights and days, bless the Lord; you light and darkness, bless the Lord; you lightenings and clouds, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

Cantor: Let the earth bless the Lord: you mountains and hills, bless the Lord; all you green things that grow on the earth, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

Cantor: You wells and springs, bless the Lord; you rivers and seas, bless the Lord; you whales and all who move in the waters, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

Cantor: All you birds of the air, bless the Lord; all you beasts and cattle, bless the Lord; all you children of mortals, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

Cantor: You people of God, bless the Lord; you priests of the Lord, bless the Lord; you servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

Cantor: You spirits and souls of the righteous, bless the Lord: you pure and humble of heart, bless the Lord; let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Praise and magnify God forever.

If you prefer to sit, you may sit near the font.

Affirmation of Baptism

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

Pastor: Let us 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.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

All: 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.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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.

Pastor: 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?

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

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

All: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that 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.

All: Amen.

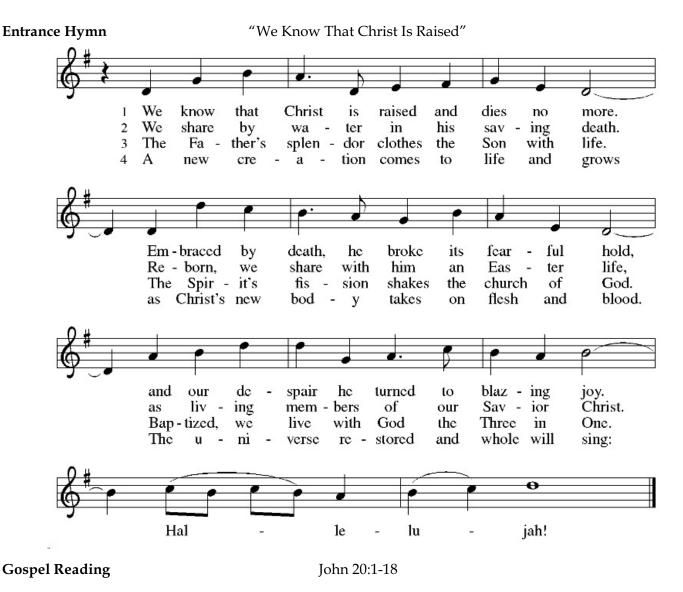
WE SHARE IN HIS MEAL

During the hymn the congregation will take a seat in the pews. The leaders will sprinkle the congregation with water as a reminder of their baptism.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!





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

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him. "When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew,

"Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Sit

Sermon Pastor Rachel Laughlin

Stand

Hymn of the Day "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!" No. 377 vs. 1, 4, 5

Prayers of the Church

After "Risen Lord," worshipers respond "Pour out your Love."

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Worshipers share a sign of God's peace with one another, greeting each other with words like "Peace be with you... And also with you.

Sit **Offering**

Please date and complete the fellowship registration pad.

Offering Music

"Resurrection Dance" Sanctuary Choir and Handbells

Russell Schulz-Widmar

Give ear, give ear, good Christians all, our song is worth a hearing: We tell how grief has ended woe and fear has finished fearing: The pain that lasted for a day has brought eternal cheering.

Was ever battle won like this — where he that lost was gaining; And he that fell was triumphing, and he that died was reigning; And he that held the Reed of Scorn a Scepter was obtaining?

The winner then had such a fall as crushed him down forever;
The wise was taken in his craft, the strong in his endeavor,
And he, the Slain, was Victor still, and he that slew him — never!

Give ear, give ear, good Christians all, the riddle is expounded; From north to south, from east to west its meaning shall be sounded: On Easter Day was won the fight, and Life has Death confounded, On Easter Day was won the fight, and Life has Death confounded.

Liturgical Hand Washing

I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. – Psalm 26:6-7

Stand

Offering Response

"The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing" Sing verse 1 and refrain.

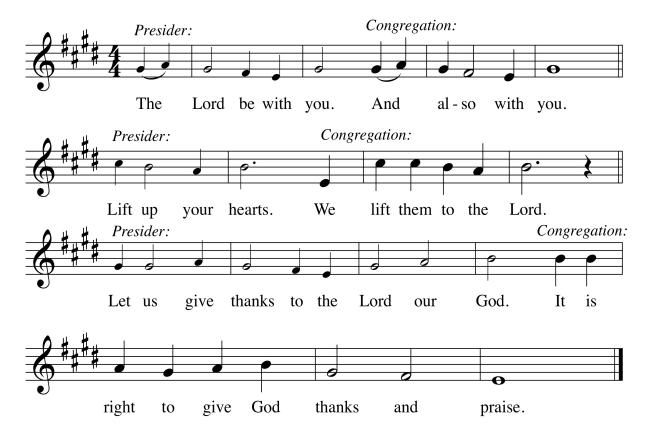
No. 531

Offering Prayer

Asst.: Let us pray.

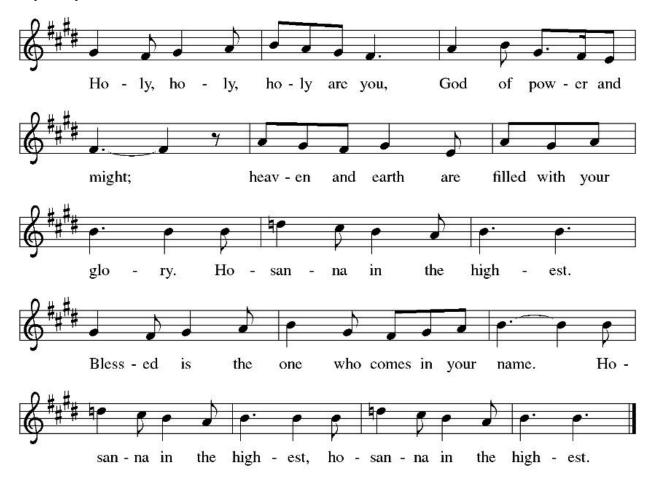
All: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving - Grace Before the Meal



Pastor: It is our duty and delight the we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given to you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Meal

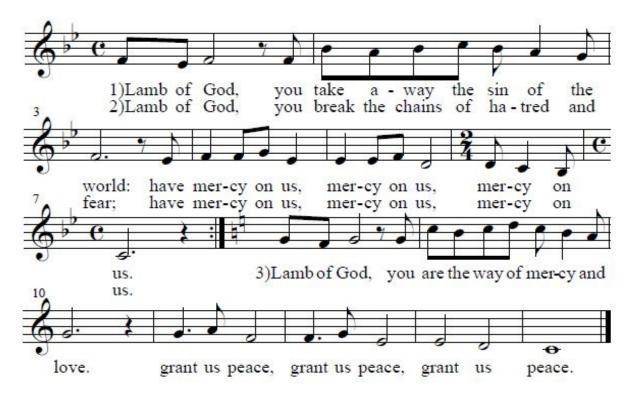
Pastor: If you desire to receive what God offers, come to this Table. Come with your faith and your doubt. Come with your questions and your hopes. Come with your grief and your love. Come taste the Lord's goodness. There is room for you here because this is Christ's table. You are welcome.

Holy Communion - the Lord's Supper

All are welcome at Christ's table regardless of age or membership status. All communion servers will have sanitized their hands before handling the communion elements. Ushers will direct you to come forward. The pastor and assisting minister will distribute the bread (gluten-free) and the other servers will distribute the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Individually packaged gluten free wafers and sets of completely sealed elements (wheat wafer and grape juice) are available on the stands near the bread distributors. You may pick on of those up yourself, if you prefer. You may place your empty cup in the baskets on the tables as you return to your seat.

If you would prefer not to receive communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference to the servers.

Lamb of God



Communion Hymns

"As the Grains of Wheat"

No. 465





Table Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Asst.: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

wa - ter made ho - ly; sing of sal - va - tion, al - le - lu - ia! last-ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

All: Amen.

THE SENDING

Stand

Final Blessing

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ₱ bless you now and always.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

No. 363

vs. 1, 2, 5

Dismissal

Asst: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Music for the Close of Worship

"Toccata Giocosa"

Gilbert Martin

Tonight's Servers March 30, 2024

Worship Asst.: Em Witteveen

Readers: Emma Janzen, Pastor Chris Laughlin, Bette MacKenzie

Steve Pendziszewski, Judson Stemaly, Beth Whately,

Elementary School Families, & Youth Group

Ushers: Kay Kincaid, Paul MacNellis Sound System: Mark Clyne, Mike Whately

Sacristy Asst: Laila Poisson Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis Fire Brazier: Paul MacNellis

Cantor: David and Susan Brown

Paschal Candle: Em Witteveen Flute: Laurel Hopper Percussion: Tom Webster

Join us for Easter!

Easter Sunday March 31 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

with enhanced Fellowship

We continue the celebration of Christ's resurrection with communion and special music.

Easter Proclamation, Music: Plainsong, adapt. Evangelical Lutheran Worship Text © 2006, Music © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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