

## RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: VIGIL OF EASTER SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021



*This resource is created as a guide to the Synod's Easter Vigil service, more than a bulletin. It may also be used by those who aren't able to connect with the Vigil service, but who may be looking for a self-guided worship resource. Where readings have been adapted creatively, they are printed out. Special music and other performances have*

*been noted. Prompts for personal or communal discussion and reflection on each reading/response, along with a suggested activity for deeper engagement, have been added. This guide may then become a resource for personal devotion, as individuals and families read the full texts and reflect on the responses for themselves.*

### INTRODUCTION TO VIGIL

[L] This is the night of salvation! As our siblings in faith have done for centuries before us, at the Great Vigil of Easter, we gather around the new fire and the light of the Paschal candle in order to hear the stories of our faith tradition beginning in creation, to the stories of Sarah and Abraham, Moses and the Israelites, Kings and prophets. And then we hear of the gifts of grace we receive through Christ, proclaimed through story and song of a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night, God's baptismal promise at the center of our faith is proclaimed again and anew to us: God claims, cleanses us, and renews us in the death and resurrection of Christ. Anticipating the celebration of the resurrection, we are gathered with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the Paschal Mystery: That Christ has died and that Christ is risen! Alleluia!

As we gather around the readings of the vigil, they will be presented in a variety of ways: as story and as poetry, with accompanying images throughout.

**Prompt:** *What does the word 'vigil' bring to mind for you? What are some assumptions and expectations you may bring based on previous experience that you can choose to set aside so that you can receive the message of these readings and responses in a fresh way?*

***For Deeper Engagement:*** Look up the history of the Easter Vigil to learn something about the role this service has played in the church. Light a candle or fire as you engage with the readings and responses.

## **GREETING**

**Instrumental interlude:** *Kyrie Eleison*

[L] 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.**

***Special music:*** “*This Little Light of Mine*” and Passing of the Light

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you created the world. You are the wisdom of the earth. You bring freedom to your people. 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.**

## **FIRST READING**

***Prompt:*** This reading is presented through story-telling. What creation stories have you read, especially from other cultures?

***For Deeper Engagement:*** Experiment with re-writing this story as a poem.

### **Genesis 1:1--2:4a**

#### *Creation*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

<sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

<sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup>So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup>God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup>And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4a</sup>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

## FIRST RESPONSE

**Light of Christ litany**

[L] The Light of Christ.

[C] Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

**Prompt:** *This reading is presented with a slide-show of nature photographs. What pictures would you use to illustrate this story—especially God’s promise given to Noah at the end of the reading?*

**For Deeper Engagement:** *Create a collage of nature photographs. Make a musical instrument from things you can find in nature (example: bean/seed shaker)*

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

*Flood*

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. <sup>2</sup>Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; <sup>3</sup>and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. <sup>4</sup>For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.” <sup>5</sup>And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

<sup>11</sup>In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. <sup>12</sup>The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. <sup>13</sup>On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, <sup>14</sup>they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. <sup>15</sup>They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. <sup>16</sup>And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

<sup>17</sup>The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. <sup>18</sup>The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

<sup>8:6</sup>At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made <sup>7</sup>and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; <sup>9</sup>but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. <sup>10</sup>He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; <sup>11</sup>and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. <sup>12</sup>Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

<sup>13</sup>In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. <sup>14</sup>In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. <sup>15</sup>Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup>“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. <sup>17</sup>Bring

out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”<sup>18</sup> So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives.

<sup>9:8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup> God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

## SECOND RESPONSE

**Special Music:** *Not Be Shaken, by Norm Strauss*

I will declare my choice to the  
nations  
I will shout for joy in the  
congregation  
I will worship God, worship God  
All my days

Those who love the Lord are satisfied  
Those who trust in Him are justified  
I will serve my God, serve my God  
All my days

When the nations crumble  
The word of the Lord will stand  
Kings may rise and fall  
His love will endure  
Though the strong may stumble  
Oh the joy of the Lord is strength  
To my soul  
I will not be shaken  
I will not be moved  
I will not be shaken

## THIRD READING

**Prompt:** *As the next reading is read, pay attention to the actions, sounds, and emotions of the people.*

**For Deeper Engagement:** *Read over the reading again. Choose a verse or verses that particularly stand out to you, and re-read*

*those verses every day for a week. Make up a song and/or dance to Miriam's words of celebration and praise.*

## **Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21**

### *Deliverance at the Red Sea*

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup>They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup>Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

<sup>13</sup>But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup>The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. <sup>16</sup>But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. <sup>18</sup>And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

<sup>19</sup>The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup>It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water

may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.”<sup>27</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.<sup>28</sup> The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.<sup>29</sup> But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup> Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.<sup>31</sup> Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

<sup>15:20</sup> Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.<sup>21</sup> And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

### THIRD RESPONSE

**Dance:** *Like a Deer, by Rita Baloch*

### PRAYER

#### ***Instrumental Interlude***

Let us pray. 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 Lord.

[C] Amen.

### FOURTH READING

***Prompt:*** *The next reading is presented as a poem. Where do you experience ‘dry bones’ and ‘the breath of God’ in the world around you?*



*For Deeper Engagement: Spend time putting something together—a puzzle, a model kit, a recipe, a pattern. Pay attention to the energy you feel as something is created from pieces of something else. Pay attention to the sounds of wind and breath this week.*

## **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

### *Valley of the dry bones*

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

## **FOURTH RESPONSE**

**Song:** *O Living Breath of God (ELW 407)*

1 O living Breath of God,  
wind at the beginning upon the waters;  
O living Breath of God,  
bearing the creation to wondrous birth:

**Refrain:**

Come now, and fill our spirits;  
pour out your gifts abundant,  
O living Breath of God,  
Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.

2 O living Breath of God,  
by whose power the Son came to birth among us;  
O living Breath of God,  
who to the creation gives life anew: (refrain)

3 O living Breath of God,  
bearing us to life through baptismal waters;  
O living Breath of God,  
sighing with creation for freedom's birth: (refrain)

**FIFTH READING**

***Prompt:** The next reading is presented as a skit. If you were re-writing this reading, what dialogue would you include or not include?*

***For Deeper Engagement:** Imagine you are Jonah writing a letter or journal entry from the boat. What would the letter or journal entry say?*

**Jonah 1:1--2:1**

*The deliverance of Jonah*

<sup>1</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.” <sup>3</sup>But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish."

<sup>7</sup>The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>Then they said to him, "Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" <sup>9</sup>"I am a Hebrew," he replied. "I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." <sup>10</sup>Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them so.

<sup>11</sup>Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. <sup>12</sup>He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." <sup>13</sup>Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. <sup>14</sup>Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." <sup>15</sup>So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. <sup>16</sup>Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

<sup>17</sup>But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

<sup>2:1</sup>Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish.

## FIFTH RESPONSE

### Jonah 2:2-9

<sup>2</sup>I called to the LORD out of my distress, and you answered me;  
out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.

<sup>3</sup>**You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me;**

**all your waves and your billows passed over me.**

<sup>4</sup>Then I said, “I am driven away from your sight;  
how shall I look again upon your holy temple?”

<sup>5</sup>**The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped around my head <sup>6</sup>at the roots of the mountains.**

I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever;  
yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O LORD my God.

<sup>7</sup>**As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the LORD;  
and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.**

<sup>8</sup>Those who worship vain idols  
forsake | their true loyalty.

<sup>9</sup>**But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you;  
what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the LORD! R**

## SIXTH READING

***Prompt:** The next reading is read while an artist creates a painting of the story. How does the reading change when accompanied by an illustration?*

***For Deeper Engagement:** Do a brief image search (digitally or through comparing illustrations in Bibles, for example) of this story and explore the various ways this story has been illustrated throughout history and across various cultures. What do you notice about similarities and differences? Choose a favourite piece of music and make time to intentionally listen to it—paying attention to the various instruments used.*

### **Daniel 3:1-29**

*Deliverance from the fiery furnace*

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

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

<sup>13</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. <sup>14</sup>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? <sup>15</sup>Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?”

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

<sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, <sup>20</sup>and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>21</sup>So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and

their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>22</sup>Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>23</sup>But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

<sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." <sup>25</sup>He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." <sup>26</sup>Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. <sup>27</sup>And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. <sup>28</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup>Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way."

## SIXTH RESPONSE

**Instrumental interlude:** *"Nothing Can Trouble"*

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

**Prompt:** *The following reading has some significant references to baptism. Reflect on the various services of baptism you've witnessed, and say a prayer for those baptized in your congregation, community or context.*

**For Deeper Engagement:** *Write a note of encouragement or support to someone whose baptism you witnessed. Put a bowl of water somewhere visible and regularly dip your finger into it throughout the day as a way to reclaim the promises God makes to you in baptism.*

**Romans 6:3-11**

<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Trumpet solo: Alleluia from Exultate Jubilate, by Mozart

## **GOSPEL READING**

***Prompt:** We are often invited to stand during the reading of the Gospel as a way of giving this reading particular attention. As you are able, consider standing or choose some other gesture (open hands and rest palms on your knees, fold hands in prayer, etc) to give this reading particular attention.*

***For Deeper Engagement:** Write the words "I have seen the Lord" on a paper or note card, and leave it in a place where it is visible. When you see it, celebrate the obvious and subtle ways Christ encounters you throughout your day.*

## **John 20:1-18**

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.

## SERMON

## RESPONSE

**Song:** *Jesus Messiah*, by Chris Tomlin

He became sin	Blessed Redeemer
Who knew no sin	Emmanuel
That we might become His	The rescue for sinners
Righteousness	The ransom from Heaven
He humbled himself and carried the	Jesus Messiah
cross	Lord of all
Love so amazing	
Love so amazing	His body the bread
	His blood the wine
Jesus Messiah	Broken and poured out all for love
Name above all names	The whole earth trembled



And the veil was torn  
Love so amazing  
Love so amazing, yeah

Jesus Messiah  
Name above all names  
Blessed Redeemer  
Emmanuel  
The rescue for sinners  
The ransom from Heaven  
Jesus Messiah  
Lord of all

All our hope is in You  
All our hope is in You

All the glory to You, God  
The light of the world

Jesus Messiah  
Name above all names  
Blessed Redeemer  
Emmanuel  
The rescue for sinners  
The ransom from Heaven  
Jesus Messiah  
Lord of all

Jesus Messiah  
Lord of all  
You're the Lord of all!  
The Lord of all

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Instrumental Interlude:** *Jesus, Remember Me*

[L] Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.... *(10 seconds of silence)*.... Holy God, you have made us alive and redeemed us through the death and resurrection of Christ. Inspire us to proclaim with the apostles that we have seen the Lord. Risen Christ,

**[C] our hope lives in you.**

[L] Holy God, you formed creation and called it good. You bless the earth, its creatures, and its vegetation. Guide us to be proper stewards of all that you have made. Risen Christ,

**[C] our hope lives in you.**

[L] Holy God, you promise justice for all and peace in the nations. Raise up advocates and just rulers to guide all levels of government so that no one lives in fear. Motivate your people to work for the protection of those who live in war-torn areas. Risen Christ,

**[C] our hope lives in you.**

[L] Holy God, you hear the cries of those in need. You befriend the lonely, nourish the hungry, raise up the lowly, offer rest and peace for the busy, pardon the imprisoned, and heal the sick. Thank you for hearing us as we lift before you those we know who need you, either aloud or silently (*pause.*) Risen Christ,

**[C] our hope lives in you.**

[L] Holy God, you perform wonders in our midst. By your Holy Spirit you grant every good gift to the baptized. Open our hearts and minds so that all may be united with Christ in his resurrection. Risen Christ,

**[C] our hope lives in you.**

[L] Holy God, you speak to us through ancestors in the faith. Show us through the example of the faithful departed that Christ is the true light that enlightens the world. Risen Christ,

**[C] our hope lives in you.**

[L] All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (pray in the language of your choice)**

**DISMISSAL**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**BLESSING**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Amen.**

**Postlude: Not Be Shaken**

## **Worship Participants & Copyright Information:**

Prelude: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (ELW 351), © Augsburg Fortress;  
all vocals - Darryl Pokrant (Sherwood Park, Winnipeg)

Introduction and Welcome: Rev. Erik Parker (Sherwood Park, Winnipeg)

Home Altar/Sacred Space Prep and video: Candace & Caitlin Kostna (Abundant Life, Bird's Hill)

Kyrie Eleison from *Gift of God* by Marty Haugen, copyright 2001 GIA Publications, Inc. (OneLicense)

Musicians: Sarah Harrington, Rachel Kristenson, Melissa Gingrich (St Mark's, Winnipeg)

Passing the Light: "This Little Light of Mine" Public Domain  
sung by Hillary Devries, featuring members of Messiah, Sherwood Park, Abundant Life, and St. Luke's Zion.

Prayer of the Day: Bishop Jason Zinko (MNO Synod)

First Reading: The Creation Story (Genesis 1:1-2:3) copyright and owned by Godly Play; Rachel Kristenson (St. Mark's, Winnipeg)

Response: "The Light of Christ" litany  
Worship Leaders, (Gimli Lutheran, Gimli)

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

Reading: Rev. Kenn Ward (Messiah, Winnipeg)

Photos: Candace & Caitlin Kostna (Abundant Life, Bird's Hill); Teri Skakum & Wes Ammeter (Messiah, Winnipeg)

Response: Not Be Shaken, Vineyard Music, Norm Straus (CCLI 1352419)

Musicians: Prairie Fire Youth Band (Shayna Bellingham, Alyssa Houde, Jon Kostna, Lucas Kushnier, Eden Scherger)

Third Reading: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Reading: Rev. Annemarie MacIntosh

Response: "Like a Deer", by Rita Baloché, © 1997 Universal Music. (CCLI 2266411)  
Performed by Jessica Goertzen (Sherwood Park, Winnipeg)

Fourth Reading: 'Those Dry Bones Get Everywhere', by Dave Hopwood (used with permission)  
Rev. Jenn Marlor

Response: O Living Breath of God (ELW 407), © 1979 Editorial Bonum; tr. 1998 Augsburg Fortress  
Musicians: Sarah Harrington, Marijus Timmerman, Melissa Gingrich (St. Mark's, Winnipeg)

5th reading: A skit based on Jonah 1:1-2:1, by Michelle Collins & Teri Skakum  
Participants: Rev. Theo Robinson (Interlake Region Shared Ministry), Teri, Zak & Tyler Skakum (Messiah, Winnipeg), Deacon Michelle Collins (MNO Synod)

Response: Jonah 2:2-9  
Emma & Jacob Brannen (Zion, Beausejour)

6th reading: Daniel 3:1-29  
Reader: Ruth Magnuson (Faith, Winnipeg)  
Artist: Jean Hunter (Gloria Dei, Winnipeg)

Response: Nothing Can Trouble, © 1981, 1991 Les Presses de Taize, admin GIA Publications, Inc. (OneLicense)  
Musicians: Sarah Harrington, Melissa Gingrich (St. Mark's, Winnipeg)

7th Reading: Romans 6:3-11  
Readers: v. 3-6 read by Eleanor Griffiths, Bruno Yerex, Christina, Isaac & Amelia Nichol (Abundant Life, Bird's Hill); v. 7-11 read by the Janzen Family (St. Luke's Zion, Winnipeg)

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia* section of *Exultate Jubilate*, Mozart. Public domain.  
Musician: Rev. David Knudson (Trinity, Starbuck)

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-20

Senior Seminarian Andrea Grozli (Sherwood Park); Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker (Messiah, Winnipeg)

Reflection: Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker (Messiah, Winnipeg)

Response: Jesus Messiah, by Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Jess Reeves, © 2008 (CCLI 5183443)

Musicians: Janet Giese, Bill Johnston, Russ Malkoske, Hugh O'Reggio (Sherwood Park, Winnipeg)

Preparation for prayers: Jesus, Remember Me (ELW 616) Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taize, admin GIA Publications, Inc.

Musicians: Sarah Harrington, Rachel Kristenson, Melissa Gingrich (St Mark's)

Photos: Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker, Deacon Michelle Collins

Prayers of Intercession:

Marlene & Reijo Peltoniemi (Hilldale, Thunder Bay)

Jenny & Brian Phillips (Our Saviour's, Thunder Bay)

Deacon Michelle Collins (MNO Synod)

Lord's Prayer: Zita, Drew & Tia Keating, Emma Fomgbami (Messiah, Winnipeg)

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