

## God's Big Story Holding Our Little Stories

Easter Vigil is a special night. A moment for some of the greatest stories of our faith heritage unfurled in one setting. In hearing these stories, we connect with the heart of our own faith story.

As the people of God, we have through history ached in suffering, celebrated in praise, begged for help, offered generous service, and in general led lives full to the brim. The stories of Easter Vigil remind us of the range of faithful moments, including both joy and desolation. Witnessing these ancient stories, we discover anew how God's great story is for us. These stories are indeed our stories.

God brings us through fire and water, out of death and night, welcoming us into the light of life. This night we light a new Christ candle from a new fire. By the light of that flame we gather to remember who we are and where we have come from. We gather at the baptismal font, giving thanks for water that is a sign of death to sin and rebirth into eternal life and for the fire of the Spirit, animating ashes and dry bones. Tonight, as we welcome new brothers and sisters in Christ through baptism, we remember how on the first Easter Christ welcomed Mary: calling her by name, bringing her out of weeping into the joyous light of Easter morning.

Through the drama of Easter Vigil, our communities of faith are invited to honest reflection and real renewal. On this night we remember that God's great story holds all of our little stories: the joy and fear of a new baby, changing jobs, cancer, celebrating friendship, waiting for new faith to emerge. All of us are written into God's ongoing and welcoming narrative of passionate grace and service.



**300 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457**

*A Congregation of the New England Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Pastor

The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs

Minister of Music

Mijin Choi

Office Administrator

Robin Aldeiri

**Easter Vigil**

**April 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

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, welcome new sisters and brothers at the font, 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.

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 Washington Street  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Pastor, The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs

Minister of Music, Mijin Choi

April 11, 2020

Easter Vigil

**P** Presiding Minister

**A** Assisting Minister

**C** Congregation

Welcome! Peace be with you. While the world is addressing the COVID - 19 pandemic, keep your focus on God our Father in heaven who will never leave you nor forsake you. Please do not take any unnecessary risks and wash your hands before you leave your house, when you enter your house, after using the rest room, after touching your face, after touching someone else. Sanitizing your phone is a good idea also. When you feel afraid, pray this prayer to God: "When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." (Psalm 56:3)

If you would like to receive Faith Lutheran Church's monthly newsletters, email the church office at [churchoffice@faithelcamiddletown.org](mailto:churchoffice@faithelcamiddletown.org) Please visit our website at [www.faiithelcamiddletown.org](http://www.faiithelcamiddletown.org) for up-to-date information.

**For pastoral emergencies, please text or call Pastor Cathy Rohrs (pronounced "roars") at 717-321-6799.**

May God bless you and keep you

**Assisting Minister:** Donna Barney

**Readers:** Jay Huntington

Robert Cinnante

Margaret D'Aquila

Rick and Heather Karpe

Breanna, Braden and Bill Stielau

Sue Girard

Faith Twining

Lee Kozlowski

**Zoom Host:** Steve McDermott

## *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** 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.*

*As the candle is lighted, the pastor says:*

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

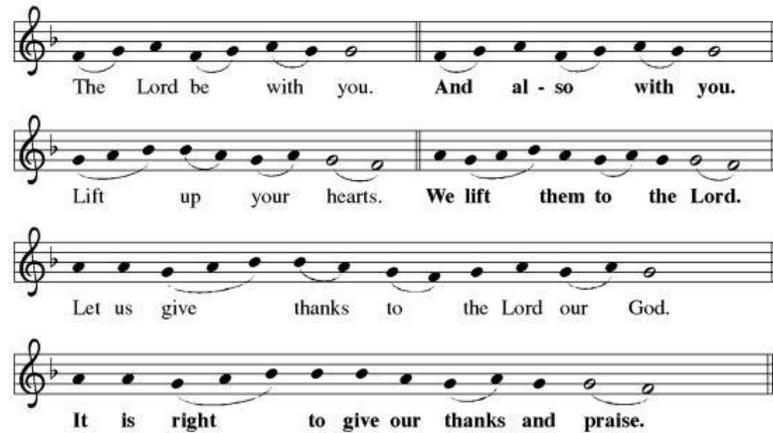
*The paschal candle is lifted high.*

**A** The light of Christ.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation gathers in silence.*

*Easter Proclamation*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Prayer of the Day*

**C 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.**

*Vigil Readings*

*First Reading*

**Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a**

*Response*

**Psalms 136:1-9, 23-26**

- <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,  
**for God's mercy endures forever.**
- <sup>2</sup>Give thanks to the God of gods,  
**for God's mercy endures forever.**
- <sup>3</sup>Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
**for God's mercy endures forever;**
- <sup>4</sup>who alone does great wonders,  
**for God's mercy endures forever;**
- <sup>5</sup>who by wisdom made the heavens,  
**for God's mercy endures forever;**
- <sup>6</sup>who spread out the earth upon the waters,  
**for God's mercy endures forever;**
- <sup>7</sup>who made the great lights—  
**for God's mercy endures forever;**
- <sup>8</sup>the sun to govern the day,  
**for God's mercy endures forever;**
- <sup>9</sup>the moon and the stars to govern the night,  
**for God's mercy endures forever;**
- <sup>23</sup>who remembered us in our low estate,  
**for God's mercy endures forever;**
- <sup>24</sup>and rescued us from our enemies,  
**for God's mercy endures forever;**
- <sup>25</sup>who gives food to all creatures,  
**for God's mercy endures forever.**
- <sup>26</sup>Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
**for God's mercy endures forever.**

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

*Response*

**Psalm 46**

- <sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
- <sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.
- <sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
- <sup>7</sup>The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- <sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the Lord,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
- <sup>9</sup>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.
- <sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the  
earth.”**
- <sup>11</sup>The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**Genesis 22:1-18**

*Response*

**Psalm 16**

- <sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;  
I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all  
other.”
- <sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**
- <sup>3</sup>But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- <sup>4</sup>**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names upon my lips.**
- <sup>5</sup>O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.
- <sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
- <sup>7</sup>I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.
- <sup>8</sup>**I have set the Lord always before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
- <sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.
- <sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.**
- <sup>11</sup>You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right  
hand are pleasures forevermore.

*Fourth Reading*

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

*Response*

**Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18**

- <sup>1b</sup>I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously;  
throwing horse and rider into the sea.
- <sup>2</sup>The Lord is my strength and my might,  
and has become my salvation;  
**this is my God—this God I will praise;  
my father’s God—this God I will exalt.**
- <sup>3</sup>**The Lord is a warrior;  
the Lord is his name.**
- <sup>4</sup>The Lord hurled Pharaoh’s chariots and army into the sea;  
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.
- <sup>5</sup>The floods covered them;  
they went down into the depths like a stone.
- <sup>6</sup>**Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power—  
your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.**
- <sup>7</sup>**In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;  
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.**
- <sup>8</sup>At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood up in a  
heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.
- <sup>9</sup>The enemy said, “I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil,  
my desire shall have its fill of them.  
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.”
- <sup>10</sup>**You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;  
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.**
- <sup>11</sup>**“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor,  
doing wonders?”**

- <sup>12</sup>You stretched out your right hand,  
the earth swallowed them.
- <sup>13</sup>In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;  
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.
- <sup>17</sup>**You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of  
your own possession, the place, O Lord, that you made your abode,  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.**
- <sup>18</sup>**The Lord will reign forever and ever.**

*Fifth Reading*

**Isaiah 55:1-11**

*Response*

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

- <sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has  
become my salvation.
- <sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**
- <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on  
God’s name; make known the deeds of the Lord among the  
nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.
- <sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**
- <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*Sixth Reading*

**Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6**

*Response*

**Psalm 19**

- <sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- <sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- <sup>3</sup>**Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,  
their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to  
the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for  
the sun.**
- <sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- <sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs  
about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning  
heat.
- <sup>7</sup>**The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the  
simple.**
- <sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to  
the eyes.**
- <sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- <sup>11</sup>**By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.**
- <sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get  
dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of  
a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be  
acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

*Seventh Reading*

**Ezekiel 36:24-28**

*Response*

**Psalms 42 and 43**

- <sup>1</sup>As the deer longs for the water-brooks,  
so longs my soul for you, O God.
- <sup>2</sup>I thirst for God, for the living God;  
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
- <sup>3</sup>**My tears have been my food day and night,  
while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your  
God?"**
- <sup>4</sup>**I pour out my soul when I think on these things;  
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house  
of God, with shouts of thanksgiving, among those keeping  
festival.**
- <sup>5</sup>Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so  
disquieted within me? Put your trust in God, for I will yet give  
thanks to the one who is my help and my God.
- <sup>6</sup>My soul is heavy within me; therefore I will remember you from  
the land of Jordan, and from the peak of Mizar among the  
heights of Hermon.
- <sup>7</sup>**One deep calls to another in the roar of your cascades;  
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.**
- <sup>8</sup>**The Lord grants lovingkindness in the daytime;  
in the night season the Lord's song is with me, a prayer to the  
God of my life.**

<sup>9</sup>I will say to the God of my strength, “Why have you rejected me,  
and why do I wander in such gloom while the enemy oppresses  
me?”

<sup>10</sup>While my bones are being broken, my enemies mock me to my face;  
all day long they mock me and say to me, “Where now is your  
God?”

<sup>11</sup>**Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so  
disquieted within me? Put your trust in God, for I will yet give  
thanks to the one who is my help and my God.**

<sup>1</sup>**Give judgment for me, O God, and defend my cause against an  
ungodly people; deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.**

<sup>2</sup>For you are the God of my strength; why have you rejected me,  
and why do I wander in such gloom while the enemy oppresses me?

<sup>3</sup>Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,  
and bring me to your holy hill and to your sanctuary;

<sup>4</sup>**that I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and  
gladness; and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my  
God.**

<sup>5</sup>**Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so  
disquieted within me? Put your trust in God, for I will yet give  
thanks to the one who is my help and my God.**

### *Eighth Reading*

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

### *Response*

**Psalm 143**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications;  
answer me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>Enter not into judgment with your servant,  
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

<sup>3</sup>**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.**

<sup>4</sup>**My spirit faints within me;  
my heart within me is desolate.**

<sup>5</sup>I remember the time past; I ponder all your deeds;  
I consider the works of your hands.

<sup>6</sup>I spread out my hands to you;  
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.

<sup>7</sup>**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.**

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear of your lovingkindness 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.**

<sup>9</sup>Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord, for I flee to you for refuge.

<sup>10</sup>Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God;  
let your good spirit lead me on level ground.

<sup>11</sup>**Revive me, O Lord, for your name’s sake;  
for your righteousness’ sake, bring me out of trouble.**

<sup>12</sup>**In your steadfast love, destroy my enemies and bring all my foes to  
naught, for truly I am your servant.**

### *Ninth Reading*

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

### *Response*

**Psalm 98**

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O Lord, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of  
Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

**<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

**<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes  
to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

*Tenth Reading*

**Jonah 1:1 – 2:1**

*Response*

**Jonah 2:2-3, 7-9**

<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!**

*Eleventh Reading*

**Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11**

*Response*

**Deuteronomy 32:1-4, 7, 36a, 43a**

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak;  
let the earth hear the words of my mouth.

**<sup>2</sup>May my teaching drop like the rain, my speech condense like  
the dew; like gentle rain on grass, like showers on new  
growth.**

<sup>3</sup>For I will proclaim the name of the Lord;  
ascribe greatness to our God!

**<sup>4</sup>“Great is our God, the Rock, whose work is perfect,  
whose ways are just: a faithful God, without deceit, just  
and upright.”**

<sup>7</sup>Remember the days of old, consider the years long past;  
**ask your father, and he will inform you;  
your elders, and they will tell you.**

<sup>36a</sup>Surely, you will vindicate your people,  
and have compassion on your servants.

**<sup>43a</sup>Rejoice with the Lord, you heavens;  
bow down in worship, all you gods!**

*The Offering*

Please take a moment to prepare your offering. Please put your offering in the locked church mailbox, mail your offering to the church, give from your online banking app, or go to our website [www.faithecamiddletown.org](http://www.faithecamiddletown.org) and click on “donate here.”

*Special Musical Selection*

*Twelfth Reading*

**Daniel 3:1-29**

*Response*

**Song of the Three 35-65**

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

You sun and moon, **bless the Lord;**  
you stars of heaven, **bless the Lord;**  
you rain and dew, **bless the Lord.**

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

You dews and falling snow, **bless the Lord;**  
you frost and cold, **bless the Lord;**  
you ice and snow, **bless the Lord.**

You nights and days, **bless the Lord;**  
you light and darkness, **bless the Lord;**  
you lightnings and clouds, **bless the Lord.**

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.**

You wells and springs, **bless the Lord;**

you seas and rivers, **bless the Lord;**  
you whales and all that swim in the waters, **bless the Lord.**

All you birds of the air, **bless the Lord;**

all you wild animals and cattle, **bless the Lord;**  
all you children of mortals, **bless the Lord.**

You people of God, **bless the Lord;**

you priests of the Lord, **bless the Lord;**  
you servants of the Lord, **bless the Lord.**

You spirits and souls of the righteous, **bless the Lord;**

you holy and humble in heart, **bless the Lord;**  
**let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

**New Testament Reading: Romans 6:3-11**

*We were incorporated into the death of Jesus Christ in baptism and so were liberated from the dominion of sin. We also anticipate that we will be incorporated into the resurrection of Christ and so will be liberated from the hold death has over our mortal bodies.*

<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: John 20:1-18

*John's Gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in

Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>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.'" <sup>18</sup>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.

### Hymn:

*"Thine is the Glory"*

ELW #376

- 1 Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

### Refrain

- Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;  
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
- 2 Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;  
let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! *Refrain*
  - 3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. *Refrain*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

## *The Prayers of the Church*

P Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A We pray for the church. Renew it and unite your people in mission. Heal the wounds caused by the coronavirus and empower the ministry of all women and men who proclaim the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For the earth. For oceans and woodlands, prairies and mountains, lakes and rivers. For creatures who move upon the land, in the waters, and through the air. Make us good stewards of creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For the nations. That we might all work together to address our common foe of COVID19. That all may support peace and those who serve the sick, the weak, and the vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For those in need. For those affected by flooding, earthquake, windstorm, fire, or drought. For refugees and those who are persecuted for their faith. For those serving in the armed forces (*especially*). For the grieving and those who are sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For this assembly. For pastors, teachers, and spiritual mentors. For those who seek a deeper relationship with you and with the church. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A Trusting in the promise of resurrection and life, we remember those who have died (*especially*). Bring us all to the fullness of your glory where your saints sing alleluias without end. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## *Blessing*

P May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## *Dismissal*

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## *Remote Fellowship Time*

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## **Prayer Requests**

*Worshippers are encouraged to speak the names of loved ones in need of prayer during the Prayer of the Church. You are also encouraged to remember all the following in your prayers. Names can be added to the prayer list by informing the church office once permission has been received from the person being added to the prayer list. O Lord, hear our prayers!*

**Mission Partners:** Genesis Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT and Salem Lutheran Church in Flint, MI.

**Mission Supporters:** Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, New England Synod Bishop James Hazelwood, Director of Evangelical Mission Kim Bergstrand, and Associate to the Bishop Mark Winsler.

**Church Council:** Donna Barney (Secretary); Ellen Cassady; Margaret D'Aquila; Mark Diehl (Assistant Treasurer); Heather Karpe; Lee Kozlowski (Vice President); Tom Kugeman (Treasurer); Steve McDermott (President); Pastor Cathy S. Rohrs; Bill Tacke (Financial Secretary); and John Twining.

**Prayer Team:** Donna Barney, Margaret D'Aquila, Sue Girard, Janet Hayn; Liz Helbig, Heather Karpe, Rick Karpe, Carolyn Krenz, Tom Kugeman and Janet Wright.

**Health Issues:** Melanie Barney, David Gionfriddo; Fred Rau; Rich Radziwon; Earl Woike; and Giulio Giuffrida as well as our fellow Americans residing in Flint, MI who are still living with inadequate water quality, our NA and AA attendees, ACES families, and the people of United Pentecostal Church.

**Life issues:** The family and friends of Anthony Matthews, Winnie May, Ed Blasco, Joseph McDermott, Archie Smith, David Albanese, Megan Brancifort, Edie Tyler, Caroline Jarzbek, Ralph Schaffer, Louise Mansueto and Rev. Richard Johnson.

Please remember Faith Lutheran Church in your estate and funeral donation planning.

## **Purpose of Faith Lutheran Church**

*God's purpose for our new church is to unite unconditionally, sharing God's love through our growing faith and mission with everyone in the name of Jesus Christ.*

## **Guiding Principles of Faith Lutheran Church**

*—Committed to serve  
—Forward thinking, future oriented  
—Welcoming  
—Guided by faith  
—Fun, relevant, cool—a place people want to be*

## **Our Church's Strategic Direction**

*Addressing Hunger in Middletown;  
Sharing Knowledge;  
Serving & Empowering Youth & Seniors;  
How? Coordinating assets in our Community to meet needs; and  
Communicating about resources & events.*

### **Contact Information**

Website: [www.faithelcamiddletown.org](http://www.faithelcamiddletown.org)

Church Phone: (860) 347-6068

Church Email: [churchoffice@faithelcamiddletown.org](mailto:churchoffice@faithelcamiddletown.org)

The Rev. Cathy S. Rohrs, Pastor

Please call or text Pastor Rohrs - cell phone: (717) 321-6799 or  
email: [pastorcathyrohrs@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcathyrohrs@gmail.com)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

(\*events are presented via Zoom)

Sunday, April 12	9:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship*
Monday, April 13	7:30 p.m.	AA*
Wednesday, April 15	6:00 p.m.	WTW To Go
Friday, April 17	7:30 p.m.	AA*
	10:00 p.m.	Until the Wheels Fall Off NA*
Saturday, April 18	5:30 p.m.	Basically Lit NA*
Sunday, April 19	9:00 a.m.	Worship*