

Ascension Lutheran Church

Vigil for the Resurrection April 11, 2020, 7 p.m.

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

This Vigil is offered in the hopes of being the first celebration of the Great Fifty Days.

Begin in low light or darkness.

Lighting an Easter Light

This is the light of Christ!

Thanks be to God!

The Exsultet

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation
for the victory of our mighty King!

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,
bright with a glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King!

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our ancestors, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and we are reconciled to God.

Holy God, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

This candle can be burned for the remainder of the Great Fifty Days whenever a family gathers to eat or someone sits for quiet.

Hearing Salvation's History

Story 1: The story of Creation —Genesis 1:1-2:4 (Spark Story Bible)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

Thanks be to God.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Story 2: The Flood — Genesis 6-9 (Spark Story Bible)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Story 3: Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea — Exodus 14.10-30 (Spark Story Bible)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

Thanks be to God.

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remembering Baptism and Telling Its Story

Before we hear the Good News of our Savior's resurrection, let us pray for all those who are baptized and hear of God's acts of salvation through Water and the Spirit.

Story 4: Baptized into Christ's Death and Resurrection — Romans 6.3-11 (NRSV)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.

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. 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. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Thanks be to God.

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended
into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

**With God's help, I will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the
breaking of bread, and in the prayers.**

**With God's help, I will persevere in resisting evil, and whenever I fall into sin,
return to the Lord.**

**With God's help, I will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in
Christ.**

**With God's help, I will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as
myself.**

**With God's help, I will strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the
dignity of every human being.**

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole
Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your
providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and
know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had
grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their
perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

Proclaiming Christ's Resurrection

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let's hear one more story: the story of an empty tomb.

Story 5: Jesus' Resurrection — Matthew 28.1-10 (Spark Story Bible)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

Thanks be to God.

O God of love, you are the true sun of the world, evermore risen and never going down: We pray you to shine in our hearts and drive away the darkness of sin and the mist of error. We pray that we may, this day and all our lives long, walk without stumbling in the way you have prepared for us, which is Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Sharing the Easter Feast

In this dispersed setting, Holy Communion is not available, but Christ is present whenever two or three are gathered in his name, and the disciples knew him in the breaking of the bread.

Alleluia! Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us!

Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

When we share our bread with one another

The Lamb of God will make us one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coronavirus Response: All face to face, in person gatherings at Ascension are canceled through Sunday, May 10.

Prayer Concerns: Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

Please continue your tithes and offerings. Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website or the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate.2. Click the registration link and enter your payment information.3. Receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

Service adapted from the Book of Common Prayer by the Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews, St. Hilda St. Patrick, Edmonds, WA. Used by permission. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Ascension Lutheran Church

PO Box 266 Shelby, NC 28151

Ascensionlutheranshelby.com

Facebook.com/ascensionlutheranshelbync

704-487-5679

The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor 704-472-7783

Debby Chaffin, Secretary

Steve White, Organist

Rose Cook, Financial Secretary

Daryl Cook, Council President 704-418-3103