

Discovering the Treasure



TRIDUUM 2016 (The Three Days)

First Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls

TRIDUUM

The three days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday are not just occasional gatherings to remember what was happening to Jesus at this or that moment.

Rather, we gather to enter into the glory of the cross and to worship the Crucified Lord present in this time and place.

- MAUNDY THURSDAY

We begin the journey of the Three Days, with a remembrance of Jesus at the table with his friends. We eat together and kneel to wash feet, following Christ's new commandment to love one another.

- GOOD FRIDAY

The Adult Choir will lead us in a solemn contemplation of the events of Good Friday. As each candle is extinguished, music and scripture help us meditate on the deep meaning of Christ's death. The cross is veiled at the close of the service.

The savior of the world is dead.

- GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

We gather in the spring air to kindle the first fire of Easter. The paschal candle represents the presence of the Risen Christ.

We hear, read, and participate in the singing of the glorious scriptures of deliverance.



We remember our Baptism
and share Holy Communion.

Our worship begins in hushed
darkness and builds to an explosion
of lights, sound, color, and joy.
Our celebration of the resurrection continues
in the two services on Easter Sunday.





MAUNDY THURSDAY
March 24, 2016 - 7 p.m.

Tonight we gather to eat some ordinary bread and drink some ordinary wine. But hidden in this meal is a mystery that is not ordinary and is so wonderful that it is hard for humans to understand. The worship ends with the altar being stripped just as our Lord was stripped of his garments before he was crucified. After listening to the haunting words of Psalm 22 we leave in silence.

THE PRELUDE
SILENCE

HYMN

Jesus Loves Me

ELW 595

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SILENCE

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil - all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SELF-EXAMINATION

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

***THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthens you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

***THE PEACE**

FAITH LIFE MILESTONE

(First Communion participants, parents, and any baptismal sponsors, please come forward)

THE OFFERING

Lenten Love Song
Children's Choir

Helen Kemp

SERMON

God's Treasured Children

Pastor Jennifer Rose

P: On this night we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love and serve one another, as Jesus has done for us. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example of the Lord gave us.

It is, however, in Holy Communion that the members of the Christ's body participate most intimately in his love.

Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in the new covenant which makes us one with Christ and with all believers, and empowers us to live as Christ disciples in the world, loving others just as he loves us, AMEN.

THE WASHING OF FEET

Scripture

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

***CONSECRATION OF THE GIFTS**
***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

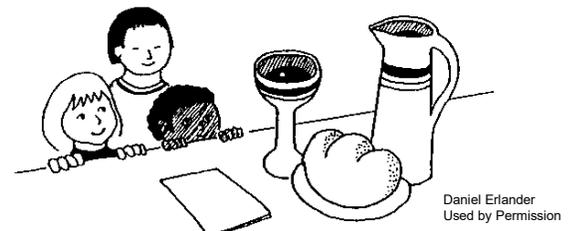
THE SHARING OF THE MEAL

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**



Daniel Erlander
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ELW 502, 803

*Indicates where congregation should stand

***BLESSING
EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

PSALM 22:1-18 (sung by cantor)

(LEAVE THE CHURCH IN SILENCE)

It's with great joy that we welcome to the Lord's Table the following who completed instruction with Pastor Saul & Pastor Jennifer:

Katie Anderson	Reagan Cheshire
Nicholas Flugstad	Charlie Fuder
Kaden Haarstad	Ava Hastings
Hunter Haugen	Kallie Karsten
Shianne Karsten	Cyntreya Lockett
Maria Myhre	William Ness-Ludwig
Yana Prischmann	Miah Schmidt
Solvie Smestad	Caroline Stumbo
Annie Trosvig	Randi Walls
	Ava Werner

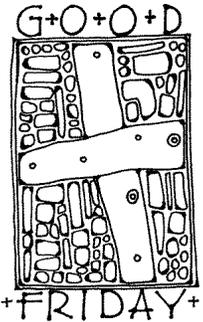
Senior Pastor:	Saul Stensvaag
Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Feet:	Nicholas & Leslie Flugstad, Diane Prischmann Cyntreya Lockett, Megan Johnson, Julie Dimke
Communion Assistants:	Orrie & Dalyce Leabo
Children's Choir Director:	Mary Kay Stensvaag
Cantor:	Linda Mellon
Acolytes:	Brandon Hinsverk, Madeline Trosvig
PA:	Kevyn Heck

Thanks to Lori Charest who led our 5th graders in making their individual chalices and to our 5th Graders who made our communion bread for this evening's Worship service.

The nursery is open but not staffed for any parents who would like to use it during this service.

GOOD FRIDAY / March 25, 2016
TENEBRAE - A SERVICE OF DARKNESS
7:00 p.m.

As the candles are extinguished, we are renewed in awe and reverence at our Savior's atoning death.



SILENT PROCESSION

*GREETING:

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,
Who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on the cross.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

*HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW 351 (Verses 1 & 3)

*PRAYER

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

1. *Jesus in Gethsemane*
Luke 22:39-44

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane

ELW 347 (Verse 1)

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r,
you Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him on bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

2. *Peter's Denial of Jesus*
Luke 22:54-63

3. *Jesus before Pilate*
Luke 23:13-25

ANTHEM

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Adult Choir

arr. Hal Hopson

4. *Jesus on the way to Calvary*
Luke 23:26-30

ANTHEM

Wondrous Love
Adult Choir Women

arr. Niles

5. *The Crucifixion of Jesus*
Luke 23:32-37

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus

ELW 349 (Verses 1 & 2)

- 1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended that we to
judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.
- 2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

6. *Jesus on the Cross*
Luke 23:39-43

ANTHEM

Lamb of God
Adult Choir

arr. Christiansen

7. *The Death of Jesus*
Luke 23:44-46

VEILING OF THE CROSS

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

ANTHEM

Christ, We Do All Adore Thee
Adult Choir

Dubois

SILENCE

CONCLUDING SENTENCE:

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: **By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

(LEAVE THE CHURCH IN SILENCE)

Senior Pastor:

Saul Stensvaag

Associate Pastor:

Jennifer Rose

Organist:

Keith Melberg

Adult Choir Director:

Erik Vigesaa

Acolyte:

Alexis Larson, Andrey Lockett

Lector:

Lorri Holt

P.A:

Ashley Shuck

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

MARCH 26, 2016 - 9:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil is among the oldest of Christian festivals. We kindle the first fire of Easter in the spring outdoor air. We process by candlelight into the darkened sanctuary. We hear stories of our deliverance and salvation. We remember our baptism and share Holy Communion. This Easter Eve is truly a night like no other as you are among the first to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus!

Four Sections comprise the vigil of Easter: The Service of Light, The Service of Readings, The Service of Baptism, and The Service of Holy Communion.

*THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

When we huddle together in the chilly evening, the darkness surrounds us with a sign of death, Christ's death and our own. We are in the tomb of night, and only with faith kindled by the power of the Holy Spirit can we sing of the resurrection. We gather around a fire, and from it a great candle is lit, which will make this night bright for us. This candle proclaims the resurrection of Christ as a timeless event even now occurring. This night, not back then, is the night of salvation. After the Vigil is completed, the paschal candle will be lighted for the liturgies of the 50 days of Easter, at the font for baptisms, and beside the coffin for funerals.

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



The procession into the darkened church begins, led by the cantor who bears the Paschal candle. At the door to the sanctuary,



*The procession continues into the church, with the **congregation entering by center and side aisles and filling up the front pews first.** When all have reached their places,*



The Easter Proclamation, or Exsultet, follows. It is a grand and ancient song of praise, inviting first heaven, then earth, then the church and this congregation to join in the praise of God. "This is the night" - time is erased and the past events live again and we are present at them all.

A: Rejoice, now, all heavenly choirs of angels, and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation; and, for the victory of so great a King, sound the trumpet of salvation.
Exult, also, O earth, enlightened with such radiance; and, made brilliant by the splendor of the eternal King, know that

the ancient darkness has been banished from all the world.

Be glad also, O mother Church, clothed with the brightness of such a Light, and let this house resound with the triumphant voices of the peoples.

C: Amen

A The Lord be with you.
 B And al - so with you.
 A Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 B It is right to give him thanks and praise.

(During the following, the light is passed from the Paschal candle. We are reminded of the lighted candle given to the newly baptized and the fire of the Holy Spirit released in Christ's resurrection. Through baptism, we are all to shine as lights in the world. We remember also the funerals of the previous year, when the paschal candle burned near the bodies of our loved ones. Please tip only the unlit candle when passing the light.)

A:

It is indeed right and salutary that we should with full devotion of heart and mind and voice praise the invisible God, the Father Almighty, and his only Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ;

Who paid for us the debt of Adam to the eternal father, and who by his precious blood redeemed us from the bondage to the ancient sin.

For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain, by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the night in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, from the land of Egypt; and led them, dry-shod, through the Red Sea.

This, indeed, is the night in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.

This is the night in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.

This is the night in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph.

O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and the hour wherein Christ arose again from hell!

Therefore, in this night of grace, receive, O holy Father, this evening sacrifice of praise; which the Church lays before you in the solemn offering of the candle.

We sing the glories of this pillar of fire, the brightness of which is not diminished, even when its light is divided and borrowed.

For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants, have made for the substance of this candle.

O night truly blessed in which heaven and earth are joined - things human and things divine.

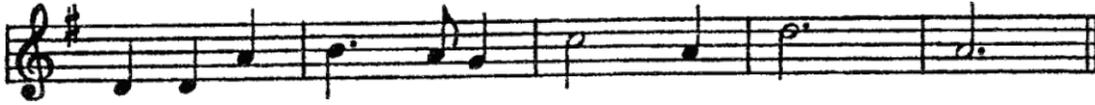
We, therefore, pray to you, O Lord, that this candle, burning to the honor of your name, will continue to vanquish the darkness of this night and faithfully shed light on all the human race, through the same Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

(PLEASE EXTINGUISH CANDLES AND SIT)

All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord -

Refrain



R/ Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ev - - er.

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

Refrain

You sun and moon, bless the Lord; you stars of heaven, bless the Lord;
you showers and dew, bless the Lord -

Refrain

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

Refrain

You dews and frost, bless the Lord; you frost and cold, bless the Lord;
you ice and snow, bless the Lord -

Refrain

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

Refrain

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 -

Refrain

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 -

Refrain

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 -

Refrain

You people of God, bless the Lord; you priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;
you servants of the Lord, bless the Lord -

Refrain

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 -

Refrain

BAPTISMAL RENEWAL

We focus on the baptismal font and are renewed in our own baptismal covenants.

Luther's Baptismal Prayer

(During the prayer, the presiding minister will make the sign of the cross in the water suggesting the parting of the Red Sea at the Exodus, blow on the water in the form of the cross as a sign of the Holy Spirit moving over the waters at creation, and dip the Paschal candle into the water, to symbolize how Christ goes into the water of death and emerges with new life, which is repeated in the baptism of all believers.)

Renunciation

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: **I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: **I renounce them.**

Confession of Faith

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **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.**

The Baptismal Covenant Renewed

P: 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?

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

Prayer

P: 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 first given in baptism:
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.

C: **Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Baptized
Worship Team

Jay Beech

(Congregation joins on chorus)

Baptized into the death of Christ and raised again to new life.
Baptized into the death of Christ and raised again to new life.

(During the song 'Baptized', we are sprinkled with water from the font to remind us of our own baptism.)

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*After the proclamation of the Easter message, we surround the cross which,
on this night becomes the table of the Lord, where we celebrate Christ's triumphant sacrifice, share the
sacrament of His body and blood, and are renewed in the new life of Easter.*

EASTER GREETING

P: Christ is risen.

C: **HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Jesus Christ is Risen Today
(remain seated until verse 3)

ELW 365 (v. 1-3)

1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

*3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, where the angels ever sing Alleluia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sb. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Liturgica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1708, st. 4
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*PRAYER OF THE DAY

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-10

OFFERING

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you**

*P: 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 for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for 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.*

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes.

C: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Let us pray: Gracious Father, With this bread and cup
We remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
We await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

LORD'S PRAYER*DISTRIBUTION**

(We surround the cross and receive the body and blood of our risen Lord Jesus.)

In accordance with ancient church tradition at Easter, we will stand to receive communion.

We will use a common cup and intinction (dipping the wafer in the wine).

The first chalice is wine, the second is white grape juice.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Alleluia, ELW 471, 616 (repeat)

Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia (repeat)

v. 2 He is risen, Alleluia

v. 3 I will praise him, Alleluia

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

***POST COMMUNION HYMN** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

ELW 365 (v. 4)

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

***PRAYER**

P: Life-Giving God, In the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: **Amen.**

***BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

P: Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and raise you to newness of life, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Go in Peace, serve the risen Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Toccata (5th Symphony)

Widor

Pastor:	Saul Stensvaag
Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Readers:	Mark Boen, Alya Kretchman, Amanda Kretchman, Sue Toso
Cantors:	Michael Wicklund, Brooke Kollman, Diane Boen, Jon Gunderson
Acolytes:	Tucker Henkes, Isaac Pederson
Communion Assistants:	Tom & Lisa Wolfe
Worship Team Leader:	Anne Taylor
Organist:	Keith Melberg
Choreographer:	Hannah Carlson
Dancers:	Hope Fletchall, Andrey Lockett, Grace Opatz, Sydney Batzlaff, Alya & Onya Kretchman, Lilly Stumbo, Mya Lillemon
PA:	LeAnne Jaenisch

*Indicates where congregation should stand

In the great Vigil of Easter we pass over with Christ from death to life, and with the church from Lent to Easter. "Truly, the empty tomb is overflowing with the grace of God. The vigil has lasted two hours, perhaps more, and some of us plan to be back in the morning to worship once again. Yet with so plenteous a feast served up at the Vigil, we will be glad to join in this long evening next year, and the next, to eat and eat and eat of the mercy of God."

Gail Ramshaw

*Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!*

*Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!*

*Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!*

*This is the night when the pillar of fire
destroyed the darkness of sin!
This is the night when Christians everywhere,
washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement
are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.*

*This is the night when Jesus Christ
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.*

*The power of this holy night
dispels all evil, washes guilt away,
restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy;
it casts out hatred, brings us peace,
and humbles earthly pride.*

*Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth
and we are reconciled with God.*

Exsultet, from the Roman Rite

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!



**First Lutheran Church
402 South Court Street
Fergus Falls, MN
(218) 739-3348**

Website: firstlutheranchurchff.org

