# Holy Week: The Great Vigil of Easter Word & Eucharist April 19, 2025 | 8:01 pm (sunset) Onsite & Online





God Loves. We Love.

Everyone!

Dios Ama. Amamos.

Todos!

3001 Whitis Avenue Austin, Texas 78705 info@felcaustin.org 512.478.1933 church 512.478.5424 cdc www.felcaustin.org

# Everyone is welcome. This means you.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church & Child Development Center (FELC). We are a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You are invited to fully participate in a community of faith and friendship that gathers for worship, relationship building, personal growth, and service in the community and the world. Following the example of Christ, this congregation welcomes you exactly as you are.

Worship is at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we encounter God, express our theology, define our identity, and are formed and transformed as the people of God. As we are gathered together, we receive the Word of God, give thanks, and are sent to be living, active images of divine love.

We are committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently abled physically or mentally. Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. For more on our welcome and life, visit <a href="https://www.felcaustin.org">www.felcaustin.org</a>.

If this is one of your first times with FELC, please use the online Welcome Visitors information form and provide feedback on your visit <a href="http://www.felcaustin.org/forms/visitors">http://www.felcaustin.org/forms/visitors</a>.

When we gather in the **Chapel of the Saints**, we gather as the saints of God in prayer, worship, and community. We gather with the saints of the past that we remember in various ways: the names engraved on the Columbarium, the Cloud of Witnesses mobile hanging in the Chapel containing the names of all who have died at FELC since 1936, and the icons displayed on the walls that remind us of people who inspire our faith and action today. The icons in the Chapel, by artist Kelly Latimore, are diverse saints, ancient and contemporary, and eight more are installed in the hallway outside the north transept entrance. The Columbarium consists of separate niches that can hold up to two urns each.

**All Gender Restrooms**, with infant changing tables, are located in the hallway off of the sanctuary near the fellowship hall. **Hearing assistance devices** are available for the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids; please connect with an usher for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on our wood pews and chairs are available from an usher in the narthex.

We acknowledge the presence of God's people living on this land long before European conquest. These lands and waters have sustained the Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Jumanos, Lipan Apache, Sana, Tonkawa, and other indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Gathering today to worship on ancestral homelands, we acknowledge and honor our indigenous sisters, siblings, and brothers who continue to care for the land and water and call this land home.

## 中 GATHERING 中

# Easter Vigil, Year C

The assembly offers acclamations and songs printed in bold. As we gather outside in the courtyard, you need this bulletin and an individual candle.

## Lighting of the New Fire

#### Welcome!

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## And also with you.

People of God, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water and oil, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

## Blessing of the New Fire

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

## **Inscribing of the Paschal Candle**

The presiding minister traces the inscription on the paschal candle.

Christ, yesterday and today,  $\oplus$  the beginning and the ending. A  $\Omega$  To Christ belongs all time 2 and all the ages; 0 to Christ belongs glory and dominion 2 now and forever. 5 Amen!

The presiding minister lights the paschal candle, and says:

The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

## **Candlelight Procession**

The procession begins, led by a minister bearing the paschal candle.

During the procession, light from the paschal candle may be passed until the people's candles are all lighted.

As the procession begins, at midpoint, and at the conclusion, a minister sings:

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

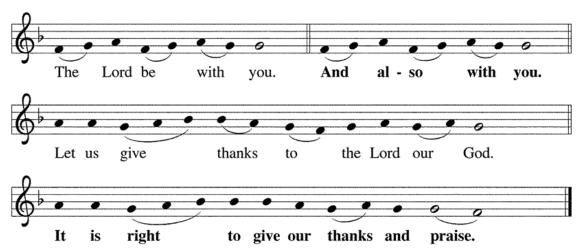
The paschal candle is placed in its stand. The assembly remains standing, as able.

## **Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)**

music: Plainsong chant

The assembly remains standing, as able. A minister sings the Easter Proclamation.

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers . . .



The assembly repeats each "This is the night" after the minister.

...one God, now and forever.

Am- en. (sung)

The assembly is seated.

The singing bowls sound throughout the liturgy, calling us to focus our prayer. You may keep your individual candle burning as long as you desire.

# 中 WORD中

The stories tell of God's saving acts, and point the way toward Christ and the paschal mystery to which we are joined and invited to in baptism.

The pattern of story, musical response, and prayer holds our proclamation. We sit to receive the story. We stand to sing the musical response. We stand to pray. The list of stories is found on the next page.

## Pattern: Story | Musical Response | Prayer

text: from Psalm 30; music: Paul Inwood

**Story** - The assembly is seated.

At the conclusion of each story: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

**Musical Response** - The assembly standing.

Refrain

I will praise you, Lord, you have res - cued me,

I will praise you, Lord, for your mer-cy. I will praise you, Lord,

you have res - cued me:

I will praise you, Lord.

**Prayer** - The assembly standing.

#### **Stories**

- 1. Genesis 1:1—2:4a Creation
- 2. Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 Flood
- 3. Genesis 22:1-18 Testing of Abraham
- 4. Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Deliverance at the Red Sea
- 5. Isaiah 55:1-11 Salvation to all
- 6. Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 The wisdom of God
- 7. Ezekiel 36:24-28 A new heart and a new spirit
- 8. Ezekiel 37:1-14 Valley of the dry bones
- 9. Zephaniah 3:14-20 The gathering of God's people
- 10. Jonah 1:1--2:1 The deliverance of Jonah
- 11. Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11 Clothed in the garments of salvation
- 12. Daniel 3:1-29 Deliverance from the fiery furnace

At the conclusion of all the stories, the assembly is invited to gather near the baptismal font.

# +RENEWAL OF HOLY BAPTISM+

Holy Baptism is the sacrament of new birth into the life of Christ in the community of the church. The history of God's salvation, just heard in the stories of faith and life, are proclaimed in Christ's name for each person. The baptized people of God find in this liturgy an opportunity to renew and affirm their baptismal vows through their affirmation of faith in the Creed and sprinkling with baptismal waters, hearing once again God's promise of forgiveness and unconditional love. A Paschal candle is a central symbol in the church's worship life. The paschal candle, newly made and lit at baptisms, renewals, funerals, and throughout the Easter season, shines with the light of Christ's resurrection.

## Affirmation of Faith | Apostles' Creed

Let us boldly make affirmation of our faith before God and embrace the life of the Spirit. If you are not a disciple of Jesus, may this affirmation be a sign of blessing and an invitation to deeper relationships in the life of the Church.

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

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

I renounce them!

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

I renounce them!

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

I renounce them!

Together let us use the Apostles' Creed to affirm the faith that unites us with the whole church, across time, across oceans, across peoples.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

## Thanksgiving at the Font

Water is poured into the font at the thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and creeks. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray: Breathe your Spirit into this water, and into all who are gathered here this night. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Wash away our tears. Take away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your eternal fountain, and bring to birth the body of Christ, + for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN!** 

## **Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

You have made public affirmation of your faith.

Do you intend to live 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?

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

Do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ? We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

## **Prayer of the Holy Spirit**

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.** 

During the litany of the saints, the assembly is sprinkled with water in remembrance, renewal, and invitation in holy baptism.

## **Litany of the Saints**

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Be gracious to us. Hear us, O God.

Deliver your people. Hear us, O God.

You loved us before the world was made: Hear us, O God.

You rescued the people of your promise: Hear us, O God.

You spoke through your prophets: Hear us, O God.

You gave your only Son for the life of the world: Hear us, O God.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: Great is your love.

And was born of the Virgin Mary: Great is your love.

Who by his cross and suffering has redeemed the world: Great is your love.

And has washed us from our sins: Great is your love.

Who on the third day rose from the dead: Great is your love.

And has given us the victory: Great is your love.

Who ascended on high: Great is your love.

And intercedes for us at the right hand of God: Great is your love.

For the gift of the Holy Spirit: Thanks be to God.

For the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church: Thanks be to God.

For the great cloud of witnesses: Thanks be to God.

For Sarah, Hagar, and Abraham, Isaac and Rebekah: Thanks be to God.

For Gideon and Deborah, David and Esther: Thanks be to God.

For Moses and Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel: Thanks be to God.

For Miriam and Rahab, Abigail and Ruth: Thanks be to God.

For Mary, mother of our Lord: Thanks be to God.

For John, who baptized in the Jordan: Thanks be to God.

For Mary Magdalene and Joanna, Mary and Martha: Thanks be to God.

For James and John, Peter and Andrew: Thanks be to God.

For Paul and Apollos, Stephen and Phoebe: Thanks be to God.

For Dorothy Day and Oscar Romero: Thanks be to God.

For Martin Luther and Harriett Tubman: Thanks be to God.

For Elizabeth Seton and Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Thanks be to God.

For all holy people, our ancestors in faith: Thanks be to God.

For the noble band of the prophets: Thanks be to God.

For the glorious company of the apostles: Thanks be to God.

For the white-robed army of martyrs: Thanks be to God.

For the cherubim and seraphim, Michael and the holy angels: Thanks be to God.

Bring us with all your saints to the river of life: Hear us, O God.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy.

#### **Easter Acclamation**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The holy gospel according to John.

## Glory to you, O Lord!

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2So 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, <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. 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." 4When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." "Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). "Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Zimbabwe



#### Sermon

# 中MEAL中

The assembly stands.

**Sharing Peace** 

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice. Gentle signs of reconciliation and love renew and build relationships prior to coming to God's table for Eucharist.

## **Welcome to Communion & Offering**

We reflect on our stewardship of the gifts of God entrusted to us for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. God welcomes our generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving.

## Offering Music

## Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

text: Martin Luther (1483-1546) arr. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

The second stanza will be sung first, in German.

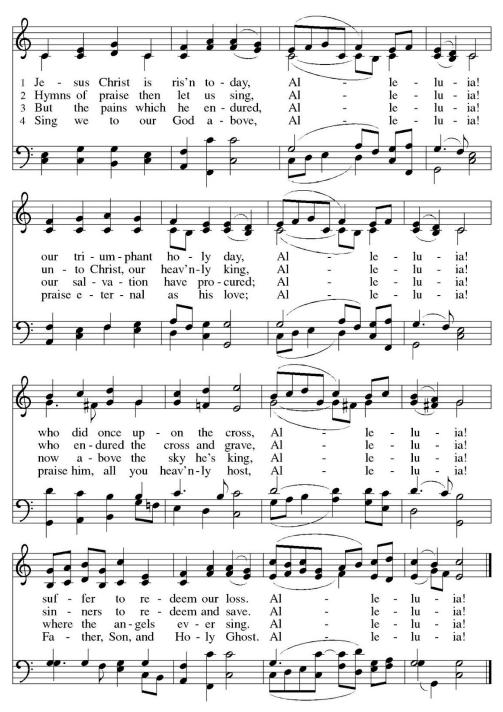
Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands for our offenses given; but now at God's right hand he stands and brings us life from heaven. Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully loud songs of hallelujah! Hallelujah!

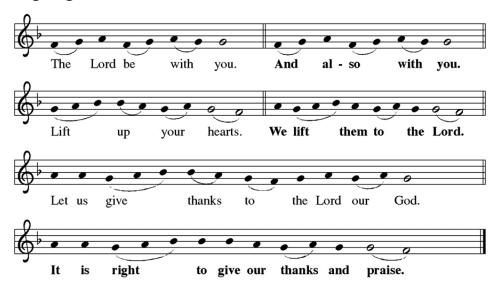
Then let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven; the Word of grace has purged away the old and evil leaven.
Christ alone, our souls will feed, he is our meat and drink indeed; faith lives upon no other! Hallelujah!

The assembly stands to sing the hymn.

Bread, wine, money, and other gifts are presented and prepared for blessing. The ministers dress and set the table in celebration of the resurrection.

Latin, 14th c.; Easter Hymn, 1708





It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, living, and loving God . . . and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed ...

Remembering, therefore, Christ's life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this hurting and beautiful world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Breathe your Spirit on us . . . clothed in the new life of Christ.

Remember, Lord, your one, holy,...and preserve us in peace.

Remember the people of the nations . . . new, peaceful day with lasting justice.

Remember the sick and all who cry out . . . grant them healing and restoration.

Remember the people in this assembly . . . that we may live for love alone.

Remember all the blessed dead . . . through the power of your love.

Through Christ, ⅓ with Christ, in Christ, all glory and honor is yours, gracious God, with the Holy Spirit, in the church and in the world, both now and forever. **AMEN!** 

#### Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen. Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre. Venga tu reino.
Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia.
Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y siempre. Amén.

Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name, your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sin, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## **Breaking the Bread**

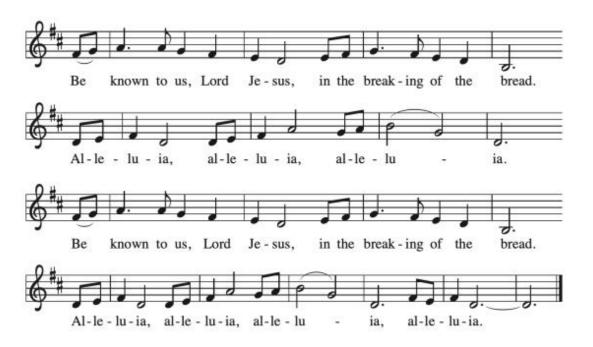
Alleluia! Christ our Paschal Lamb is sacrificed for us.

## Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

The assembly is seated.

## **Song of Response**

text: based on 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; music: Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)



## **Invitation to Communion & Blessing**

God, in Christ, fully welcomes people of every age to this Meal, which is known by many names: the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Mass, the Sacrament, the Eucharist. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

For those participating onsite, ushers will direct you by the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand for you to eat, then proceed to a station and receive a small cup, where wine will be poured and consumed. Gluten-free wafers/ grape juice are available upon request. If you desire not to receive bread or wine, you are invited to a station where a minister will offer a prayer of blessing. Then, return to your seat by a side aisle. We join in meditation and music. If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, let an usher or minister know.

## **Communion Song**

Be Not Afraid | ELW 388 Taizé

The assembly remains seated as we give God thanks.

## **Prayer after Communion**

Living God, thank you for making your home with us in this holy meal. Empowered by the Spirit, may we wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.** 

# **中SENDING**中

As we receive God's blessing, please stand.

## Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May the blessing of God,  $\oplus$  whose Spirit raised Christ to new life, strengthen you in faith, enrich you with hope, and fill you for love, now and forever. **Amen.** 

**Sending Song** 

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! | ELW 382 Verses 1, 3, 4 music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker (1844-1927) text: John S. B. Monsell (1811-1875) alt.

#### **Dismissal to Mission**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Y'all, go in peace to love and serve in newness of life!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

## Hospitality

Following the liturgy, we invite you to a champagne and chocolate reception in the Chapel of the Saints.

# +OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED. OUR SERVICE BEGINS.+

## EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP, HOSPITALITY, & EGG HUNT | APRIL 20, 2025 | 10AM

Flowering of the indoor cross before worship (bring cut flowers). Worship with the resurrection story, Holy Communion, choral & instrumental music. Festive Hospitality & Egg Hunt after worship (bring a basket)

## **LEADERS IN LITURGY & HOSPITALITY | APRIL 19**

Ministers All the People of God

Altar Care Server Barbara Schutz; Margaret Bruesch

Assisting Minister Shannon Aguirre

Building Open/Close Leigh Northcutt-Benson

Cantor Bryan Rust

Crucifer Jerry Don Aguirre
Fire Terry Porter
Hospitality Hospitality Team

Lectors Leigh Northcutt-Benson, Jerry Don Aguirre, Holden Fuerst, Ben Rode,

Hadley Fuerst, Betsy Appleton, Harper Fuerst, Trish Karli,

Desmond Peterson, Anne Wiebe, Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez, Bradley Fuerst

Livestream Minister JP Northcutt-Benson

Music Ministers FELC Choir; Elijah Aguirre, oboe; Holden Fuerst, violin;

Maria Straight, trumpet; Bradley Fuerst, exsultet;

Paschal Candle Michael Coffey Presiding & Preaching Robert Karli Sexton & Usher Heidi Goebel

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