

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1222 Vocke Road, LaVale, MD. 21502-7519  
Telephone 301-729-1010  
Email: christlutheran@atlanticbbn.net  
Website: CLCLaVale.org  
E-Mail: christlutheran@atlanticbbn.net

## ***THE VIGIL OF EASTER***

April 4, 2026

### **THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION – 8:00 PM**

*"Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!" That ancient statement of faith is more important today than ever. We welcome you to our church family as we celebrate the risen Christ in our lives and in our world. We pray that you will meet the living Lord as you worship with us this evening.*

**The Service of Light** *(The congregation gathers outside around a fire that has been prepared or in a room of the Church should weather preclude being outside.)*

#### ***The Service begins as the Pastor greets the congregation:***

P: Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. Through light and word, through 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.

#### ***The fire is blessed.***

P: Let us pray:

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Make this new fire holy, and inflame us with new hope.

Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Paschal Candle is traced.*

1. Christ yesterday and today
2. the beginning and the end
3. Alpha
4. and Omega
5. all time belongs to him
6. and all the ages
7. to him be glory and power
8. through every age for ever. Amen.



*The Candle is lit from the new fire.*

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share this night in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C. Amen**

*The Candle is lifted high.*

P: The light of Christ.

**C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**



*The Procession proceeds to the Church.  
At the door the candle is again lifted.*

P: The light of Christ.

**C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

*All light their tapers from the Paschal Candle.*

*The Procession enters the darkened Sanctuary. When all have arrived  
the candle is lifted again.*

P: The light of Christ.

**C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION (candles remain lit)

P: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation around God's throne!

**C: FOR THE VICTORY OF SO GREAT A KING, SOUND THE  
TRUMPET OF SALVATION!**

P: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of  
your King!

**C: KNOW THAT THE ANCIENT DARKNESS HAS BEEN  
BANISHED FROM ALL THE WORLD.**

P: Be glad also, O Mother Church, clothed with the brightness of  
such a light,

**C: AND LET THIS HOUSE RESOUND WITH THE  
TRIUMPHANT VOICES OF THE PEOPLES!**

P: My dearest friends, standing with me in this holy light, join me in  
asking God for mercy, that he may give his unworthy minister  
grace to proclaim his Easter praises.

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE HIM THANKS AND PRAISE.**

## Hymn 671

## “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

## Service of Readings

**First Reading: The Creation – Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a**

**Response: “What a Wonderful World”** (*Music*)

**Second Reading: The Exodus – Exodus 14:5-31**

**Response: The Song of Moses and Israel - Exodus 15:1b-13**

L “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
 C **horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.**  
 L The Lord is my strength and my might,  
 C **and he has become my salvation;**  
 L this is my God, and I will praise him,  
 C **my father’s God, and I will exalt him.**  
 L The Lord is a warrior;  
 C **the Lord is his name.**  
 L “Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he cast into the sea;  
 C **his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.**  
 L The floods covered them;  
 C **they went down into the depths like a stone.**  
 L Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power—  
 C **your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.**  
 L In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;  
 C **you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.**  
 L At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,  
 C **the floods stood up in a heap;**  
**the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.**  
 L The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake,  
 C **I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.**  
**I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.’**  
 L You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;  
 C **they sank like lead in the mighty waters.**

L “Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?

C **Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?**

L You stretched out your right hand,

C **the earth swallowed them.**

L “In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;  
C **you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.**

**Third Reading: The Valley of Dry Bones - Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**Response: “Espiritu deDios”**

**Espíritu de Dios,  
llena mi vida,  
llena mi alma,  
llena mi ser. (repeat)**

**Spirit of God,  
fill my life,  
fill my soul,  
fill my being.**

**Lléname, lléname,  
de tu presencia.  
Lléname, lléname,  
de tu poder.  
Lléname, lléname,  
de tu amor. (repeat)**

**Fill me, fill me  
with your presence.  
Fill me, fill me  
with your power.  
Fill me, fill me  
with you love.**

**Espíritu de Dios. Spirit of God.**

**Fourth Reading: The Fiery Furnace – Daniel 3:1-30**

**Response: “Trust in You” by Lauren Daigle (Video)**

The Holy Gospel: John 20:1-18

Sermon –

Rev. Martha MacGill

**Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

P. Sisters and brothers, on this most holy night, the Church keeps vigil, awaiting the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul teaches us that by baptism, we were buried with Christ and lay dead in order that as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendor of the

Father, so we should set our feet on the new path of life. Therefore, now that the struggle of Lent is over, let us renew the promises made at our baptism. I ask you, do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises?

**C. I do.**

P. Do you intend to continue steadfast in the confession of faith which you made with the Apostles' Creed and to suffer all, rather than deny Christ?

**C. I do so intend, with the help of God.**

P. Do you intend to continually conform your life to the divine Word, to be faithful in the use of Word and Sacrament, and in faith, word and action to remain true to the Triune God?

**C. I do so intend, with the help of God.**

P. People of God, you had made your profession of faith and renewed the vows of your baptism. By water, you were cleansed and brought to newness of life in the Spirit. May God grant that, as this water of remembrance touches you this night, you may feel and know the grace and favor which God has given you through your baptism.

**C. Amen**

### **Service of Holy Communion**

Resurrection announcement:

**“Christ is risen!” “He is risen indeed!” (3 times)**

*(Lights come on, flowers and colors fill the nave & sanctuary while hymn is sung)*

**Hymn: 365**

**“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”**

*(The Congregation is invited to ring small bells at the word Alleluia!)*

\* The Prayer

**ALL: 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 the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

**Easter Prayers**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

P Almighty God, we rejoice with the heavenly choirs of angels and celebrate the Resurrection with exultation. We praise you that the ancient darkness has been banished by the light of Christ.

**C ALLELUIA!**

P For the Church of Jesus Christ, for its mission to the world, and for its witness to the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**C LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

P For renewed worship within the Church, and for all the newly baptized, let us pray to the Lord.

**C LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

P For all who find it hard to believe the Good News, let us pray to the Lord.

**C LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

P For all who suffer on this joyous day; for all who are hungry or oppressed; for all who are lonely or ill, especially those we name in our hearts before you... and for all who today will die, let us pray to the Lord.

**C LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

P We give thanks for all the saints and for all our departed friends and relatives. That we may at the last be brought with them to the full joy of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**C LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

**C ALLELUIA! AMEN.**

We Offer Our Gifts to the Lord

Chancel Choir

Anthem “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Wilson

Dan Rose – Trumpet, Kati Dix – Trombone, Thaddeus Hansrote - Tuba

\* Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

\* The Offertory: **Hymn 393** “**Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!**”

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! You are, while endless ages run,**

**With Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

\* Offertory Prayer

L: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

\* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right .....and join their unending hymn:

\* (Holy, Holy Holy)

(Setting 3 – Page 144)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

\* The Words of Institution

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the

wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\* The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

**C: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

(Setting 3 – Page 146)

5 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of the Sacrament

“Christ is Risen”

Dan Rose – Trumpet

Chancel Choir

Martin

\* Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.

**C: Amen.**

\* The Prayer after Communion

L: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

**C: Amen**

\* Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and  
peace, † bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\* **Sending Hymn 376**

**“Thine Is The Glory”**

\* Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

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

\* Postlude

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*In Bread and Wine our Lord Jesus meets us and we receive His Body and Blood given and shed for our forgiveness. It is a meal of love, forgiveness and renewal. If you are visiting with us today and are a baptized Christian and desire to commune, please do come to the table of the Lord. Children and youth who have not received instruction in the meaning of the Sacrament are cordially invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please come toward as directed by ushers by the center aisle and return by the side aisles.*

**This Sunday – April 5, Easter Day – Easter Breakfast 8:30-9:30am  
Easter Worship– 10:00am**

Pastor: **Rev. Daniel Swanson**

Guest Pastor: **Rev. Martha McGill**

Lector: **Lydia Martin**

Usher: **Fred Powell**

Organist: **Rae Ann Smith**

**THE EASTER FLOWERS THAT DECORATE THE SANCTUARY  
HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
BY:**



**Easter**

Sally Buser – *In honor of Family & Jack  
In memory of Merle & Garrett Buser  
In memory of the Jack L Murray, Sr. family and  
all charter members of CLC*

Joyce DeMonbrun – *In honor of son, Daniel and Family  
In memory of daughter, Jean Marie  
In memory of son, James*

Mark & Sonya Cooper Lathrop – *In honor of Mom: Jo-Jacqueline Cooper  
In memory of father: John W. Cooper II  
In memory of Brother John W. Cooper III  
In memory of Parents: James & Patricia Lathrop  
In memory of Brother: Robert Lathrop*

Barbara Martin – *In memory of deceased loved ones*

Lydia Martin– *In memory of the James O. Martin family and the Maas-deRegt Family*

Jack Murray, Jr – *In memory of Katie Murray  
In memory of mom, Laura Vere  
In honor of Sally Buser*

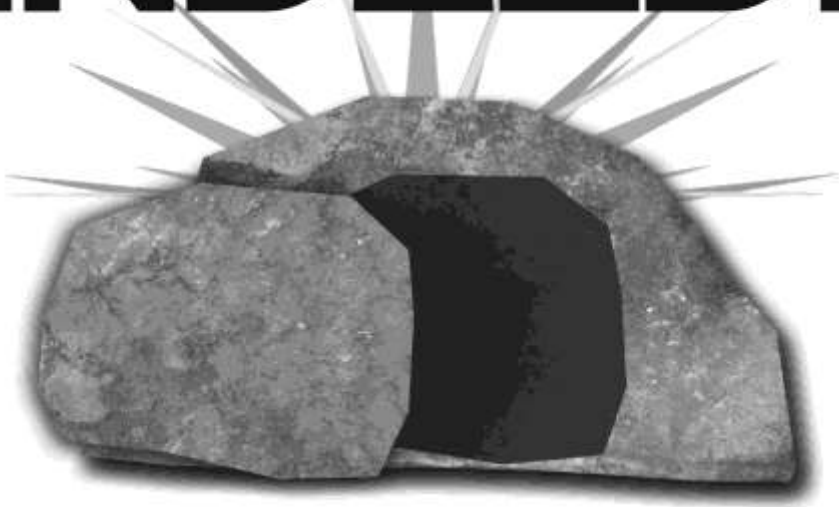
Fred & Kathy Powell – *In honor of our daughter, Abby  
In memory of our son, Joshua*

Dianne & Ray Short – *In memory of my parents and sister, Kermit & Thelma Failingner  
and Karen Failingner*

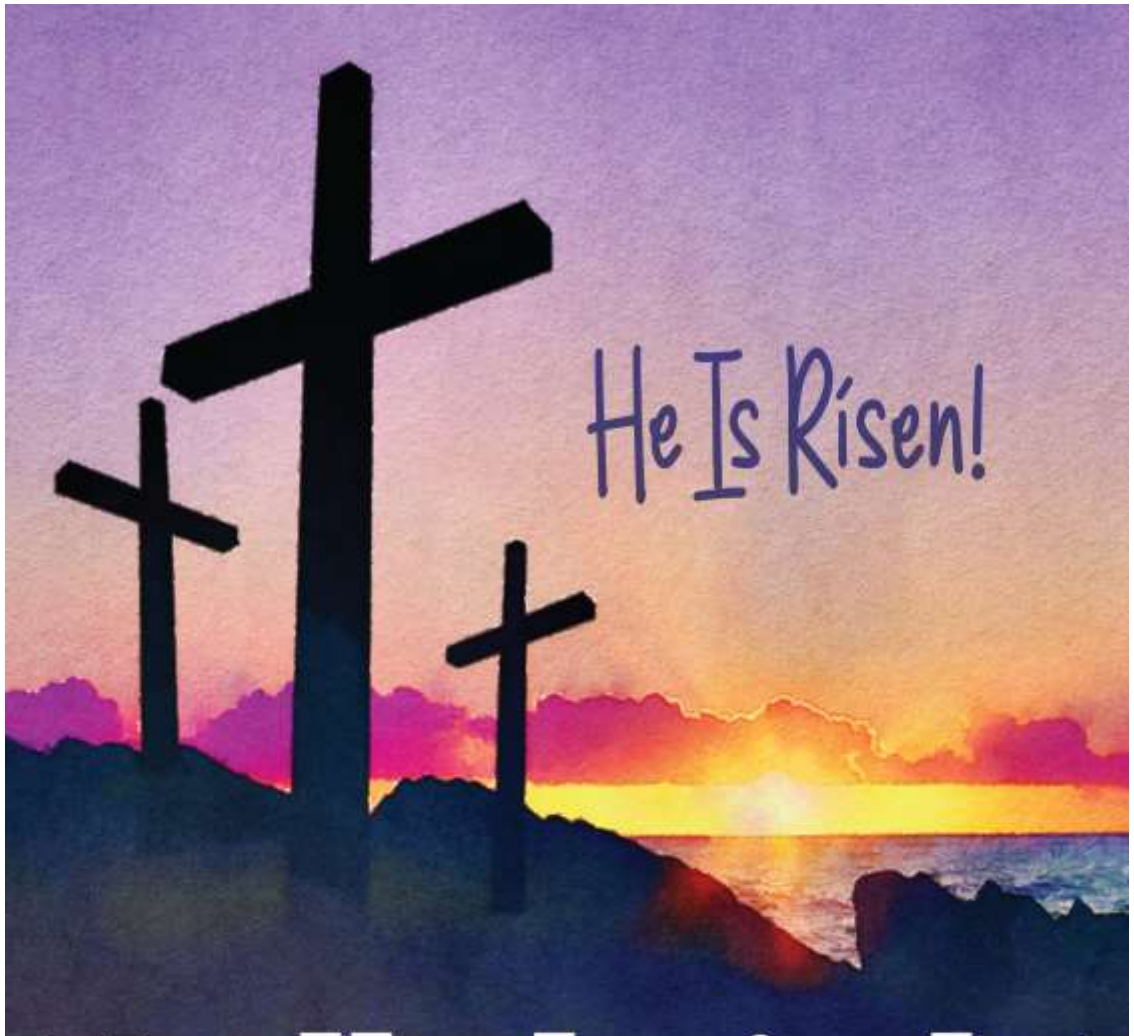
Jeff & Rae Ann Smith – *In honor of grandchildren: Jacob, Eva, Emma,  
Ian and Harrison  
In memory of Parents: John & Cynthia Smith  
Cecil & Helena Brenneman  
In memory of sisters: Betty Kroll, Marilyn Adam*

Shirley & Jim Smith – *In honor of our children and grandchildren  
In loving memory of daughter, Christina and our parents*

He Is  
**RISEN**  
**INDEED!**







He Is Risen!

Hallelujah!