

April 4 - 5, 2026

Easter Vigil - Easter Sunday Readings

First Reading

A Reading from Acts

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his household:

“I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is
acceptable to him.

You know the message he sent to the people of Israel,
preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;
how he went about doing good
and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,
but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,
not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses
and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one
ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

All the prophets testify about him
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

Second Reading

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Colossians

If you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on the things that are above,
not on the things that are on earth,
for you have died,
and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is your life is revealed,
then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

After the Sabbath,
as the first day of the week was dawning,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake,
for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven,
came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.
For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.
But the angel said to the women,
“Do not be afraid,
for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.
He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said.
Come, see the place where he lay.
Then go quickly and tell his disciples,

‘He has been raised from the dead,
and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’
This is my message for you.”
So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy
and ran to tell his disciples.
Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!”
And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.
Then Jesus said to them,
“Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee;
there they will see me.”

Pastor: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.