

Easter Vigil

VIDEO PRESENTATION AND LIGHTING OF THE EASTER FIRE

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 in prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord:

If we honor the memory of his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating the mysteries, then we may be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him forever in God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray...

***Congregation:* Gentle God, 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.**

Easter Vigil + April 4, 2026



Easter Vigil

EXULTET INTRODUCTION

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Pastor: Christ our light
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

At Evening



1. Now it is eve - ning: Lights of the cit - y
2. Now it is eve - ning: Food on the ta - ble
3. Now it is eve - ning: Lit tle ones sleep - ing
4. Now it is eve ning: Here in our meet ing



Bid us re - mem - ber Christ is our Light.
Bid us re - mem - ber Christ is our Life.
Bids us re - mem - ber Christ is our Peace.
May we re mem ber Christ is our Friend.



Man - y are lone - ly Who will be neigh - bor?
Man y are - hun - gry Who will be neigh - bor?
Some are ne glect - ed Who will be neigh - bor?
Some may be stran gers, Who will be neigh bor?



Where there is car - ing Christ is our Light.
Where there is shar - ing Christ is our Life.
Where there is car - ing Christ is our Peace.
Where there's a wel come Christ is our Friend.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray...

***Congregation:* Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears God and practices righteousness is acceptable. You know the message God 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 Jesus 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."

Reader: Word of God, word of Life.

***Congregation:* Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72

Every Nation on Earth

Ev - 'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you, Lord;

ev - 'ry na - tion on earth will a - dore you, Lord.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a semicolon, and the second staff ends with a double bar line.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Reader: Word of God, word of Life.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain S 140

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

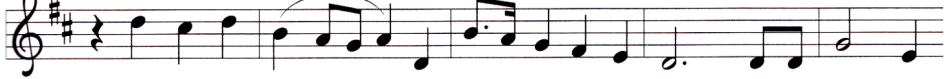
Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

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:* Praise to you, O Christ.**

‡ THE HOMILY ‡

PASTOR DAN O'BRIEN

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will the circle be unbroken
By and by Lord, by and by
There's a better home awaiting
In the sky Lord, in the sky.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *All Respond after each prayer:*

Hear our prayer.

SIGN OF PEACE *Greet one another with: Peace be with you.*

BERAKAH (Ancient Hebrew Blessing)

Bread: Pastor: Blessed are you Lord God...for us the Bread of Life.

***Congregation:* Blessed be God forever.**

Wine: Pastor: Blessed are you Lord God...for us our Spiritual Drink.

***Congregation:* Blessed be God forever.**

GRATITUDE OF THE OFFERING

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful God...

Congregation: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, our life and our breath, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

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

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by All

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 pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

HOLY COMMUNION

Here at Messiah, we believe that Christ is the host of this meal. Regardless of your background or tradition, we believe that all are welcome at the Lord's Table.

If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

Grape juice is available on the trays in the central cups.

Gluten-free wafers are available in the gold container on the stand between the bread distributors.

COMMUNION HYMNS

*Alleluia Sing to Jesus
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*

ELW Red Book #392
ELW Red Book #424

BLESSING

Congregation: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

ELW Red Book #365

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Worship Assistants

- Altar Ministry**.....Kellie Weisinger, Mary Reines
- Greeter**.....Randy & Mary Rodger
- Reader**.....John Marchewka
- Communion**.....Kelli Weisinger, Elaine Stampfli
-Melissa Remiker, Shannon Marchewka
- Ushers**.....Jill & Eli Tecalero
- Musician**.....Marian Korth
- Vocalists**...Mike Digman, Cara Musick, Clyde Nyhus
-Tara Von Dollen, Donna Buchert, Dave Down
- Streaming**.....Clark Kellogg