

# Easter Vigil (TRIDUUM DAY 3)

April 4, 2026

7:00 pm



Welcome to worship. We are glad you are here. Please come join us tomorrow morning for our Easter celebrations.

Ministers: All God's people at Messiah

Rev. Karl Hester, Pastor

Jon Abrams, Music Director

## INTRODUCTION

*The service begins in darkness (weather permitting outside by the fire pit, otherwise in the narthex). All gather in silence.*

## GREETING

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

**All: And also with you.**

One: Sisters and brothers in Christ, 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.

*The new fire is lighted. The presiding minister waits until the fire is burning before praying.*

One: Let us pray.

**All: 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 Lord. Amen.**

*The presiding minister lights the paschal candle, using a taper from the fire, and sings or says:*

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

*The assembly processes to outside the front door.  
The assistant lifts the candle so that all may see it.  
The pastor sings and the assembly responds:*

One: The light of Christ. **All: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly processes into the narthex.  
The assistant lifts the paschal candle  
and the Pastor sings on a higher tone:*

One: The light of Christ. **All: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly processes and gathers around the font.  
The assistant takes the paschal candle to the font,  
lifts it high, dips it in the water at the font.  
The Pastor sings on a still higher tone:*

One: The light of Christ. **All: Thanks be to God.**

*The paschal candle is placed in its stand in the narthex*

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

One: Let us pray. 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 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

#### **VIGIL READINGS, RESPONSES, AND PRAYERS**

*Each reading is followed by a sung response. After the response there is silence for reflection,  
followed by a prayer.*

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-11, NRSVUE**

**1** Hear, everyone who thirsts;  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

**2** Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread  
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

**3** Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

**4** See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

**5** Now you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

**6** Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;

**7** let the wicked forsake their way  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**8** For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

**9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**10** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

**11** so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

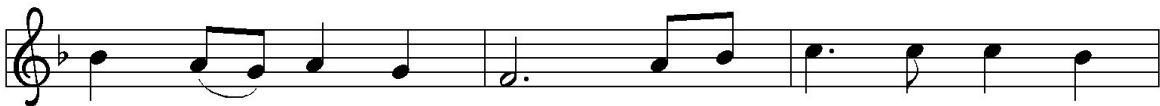
FIRST Song— ELW 641 All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen  
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## FIRST PRAYER

*Silent reflection.*

One: God, you welcome us into community with you through baptism. You sate our hunger, you slake our thirst, you heal our wounds, you show us the full extent of your love, you give us every good gift.

Help us welcome all who would come in your name.

Send your words that do not return to you empty into our lives. Teach us about justice and repentance and patience in our faith knowing that every promise from you is "Yes" and "Amen" in Christ Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## SECOND READING: Micah 6:1-8, NRSVUE

**1** Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

**2** Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

**3** "O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

**4** For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

**5** O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

What God Requires

**6** "With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

**7** Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

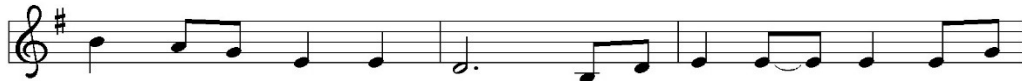
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
 and what does the Lord require of you  
 but to do justice and to love kindness  
 and to walk humbly with your God?

**SECOND SONG ELW 723 Canticle of the Turning**



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in great, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional  
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## SECOND PRAYER

*Silent reflection.*

One: God we and those in the world are a stiff-necked people.

We put our thumbs on the scales of justice.

We know we are called to be part of humankind, both human and kind, yet we treat others made in your image disgracefully at times.

We strut around arrogantly like the Pharisee in the front of the temple when you want us to be more like the publican in the back. We point out our offerings and our piety as if to impress you or others, you want us to come in a different spirit.

Send your Holy Spirit that our hearts and minds and lives might be repentantly renewed.

Could it be that our hearts are about to turn? To come back to you.

- To do justice?
- To love kindness?
- And to walk with a renewed humility?

Make it so, O Lord, make it so.

**All: Amen.**

## THIRD READING: Psalm 51:1-17, NRSVUE

1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy,  
blot out my transgressions.

**2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

5 Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**6 You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret  
heart.**

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

**10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

11 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

**14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your  
deliverance.**

15 O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

**16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would  
not be pleased.**

17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not  
despise.

### THIRD RESPONSE: ACS 1053 A River Flows through Babylon

1 *En Ba - bi - lo - nia hay rí - os con sus á - la - mos en flor.*  
 1 A riv - er flows through Bab - y - lon and pop - lars line the shore.

*A - llí con llan - to y con do - lor per - di - mos nues - tra voz.*  
 It's there we weep; for hope is gone and we will sing no more.

*Nos pi - den el can - tar de Sión, mas ¿có - mo dar lo - or?*  
 Our cap - tors ask us for a song, but can we sing of God

*en tie - rra ex - tra - ña tal can - ción pa - re - ce un gran e - rror.*  
 when songs of home seem strange and wrong and joy feels like a fraud?

2 *En Ba - bi - lo - nia hay rí - os con sus á - la - mos en flor.*  
 2 A riv - er flows through Bab - y - lon and pop - lars line the shore.

*A - llí con llan - to y con do - lor per - di - mos nues - tra voz.*  
 It's there we weep; for hope is gone and we will sing no more.

*¿Ol - vi - da - re - mos nues - tro ho - gar? ¿Ha - brá jus - ti - cia al fin?*  
 Could we for - get the home we lost? How long will jus - tice fail?

*¿Ha - brá quien ha - ya de pa - gar por tan - ta o - bra vil?*  
 Some - how, will some - one pay the cost and bal - ance out the scale?

3 *Que el jui - cio flu - ya sin ce - sar;*  
 3 Let jus - tice come as riv - ers flow

*cual rí - o lim - pie to - do mal.*  
 to cleanse the land of e - vil's stain.

*Que rec - ti - tud, cual ma - nan - tial,*  
 Let righ - teous - ness like wa - ters fall,

*se lle - ve el llan - to en su cau - dal.*  
 and wash a - way our . . . tears of pain.

*En Ba - bi - lo - nia hay rí - os con sus á - la - mos en flor.*  
 A riv - er flows through Bab - y - lon and pop - lars line the shore.

*A - llí con llan - to y con do - lor per - di - mos nues - tra voz.*  
 It's there we weep; for home is gone and we will sing no more.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979; tr. María Eugenia Cornou, b. 1969, and Carlos Colón, b. 1966

Music: SOJOURN, Carlos Colón

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### THIRD PRAYER

*Silent reflection.*

One: God, we find ourselves in places of isolation and exile. Some of those places we have stumbled into unawares and others we have eagerly chosen. Some have come about from our own sin. Some have come about from the sins of others.

You want us to live together in life-giving community.

You want us to reach out to and welcome those who also find themselves isolated and exiled.

Give us broken spirits and contrite hearts about our complicity and our apathy. Create in us clean hearts and put your Holy Spirit to work in us for your glory.

**All: Amen.**

### FOURTH READING: Psalm 121, NRSVUE

#### A Song of Ascents.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?

**2 My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

3 He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

**4 He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

5 The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

**6 The sun shall not strike you by day  
nor the moon by night.**

7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

**8 The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.**

FOURTH SONG – ELW 266 All Earth Is Hopeful



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co\_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*  
 "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"  
 será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,  
 con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*  
 nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.  
 Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,  
 y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.
- 4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*  
 pero en el mundo está presente hoy.  
 Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;  
 y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

## FOURTH PRAYER

*Silent reflection.*

One: God, there is nowhere we can go to escape your loving regard. There is no passage in any time or place we traverse that you don't have a hand in guiding us through. We lift our eyes to you in hope and faith knowing that you who make promises are faithful. You are our keeper and our shade. We can never do enough to make you love us more. We can never cause you to love us less. Thank you

You are faithful and good. Shape us into your likeness. Make us an *Imago Dei* people.

**All: Amen.**

## HOMILY HO'OPONOPONO



## EARLIEST CHRISTIAN LITURGY

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen, indeed!**

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen, indeed!**

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen, indeed!**

## EASTER PROCESSION – HALLE, HALLE, HALLE

*As the lights in the church are turned up, the altar candles are lighted, bells are rung, the people enter the sanctuary and everyone shouts and sings “Alleluia!”*

### Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954  
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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## PEACE

## COMMUNION

*All who are believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine are welcome and ready to eat at the Lord's table.*

## **DIALOGUE**

One: The Lord be with you.     **All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.       **All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.   **All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

One: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are fully of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

One: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for Jesus' coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

One: Remembering, therefore, Jesus' salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**All: Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

One: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

## COMMUNION

## BENEDICTION

One: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

## HE HAS BEEN RAISED

Larry Olson  
James Desai



Lost and frightened, feel - ing sad - ness, someone you loved has gone a - way.  
We are struggling, we are wond-'ring, can we walk the streets of faith?



Seek - ing an - swers, find - ing ques - tions. Could it be true what the peo - ple say?  
We are loved and we're for - giv - en. Why don't we trust in these arms of grace?



He has been raised. He is not here. Can you be - lieve your ears?



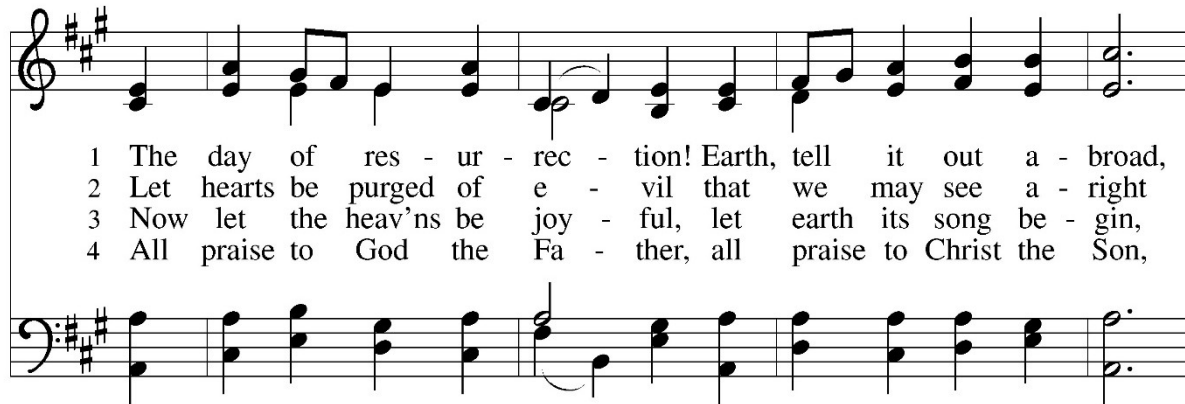
Let go of all your hurts and fears. Jesus is a-live.



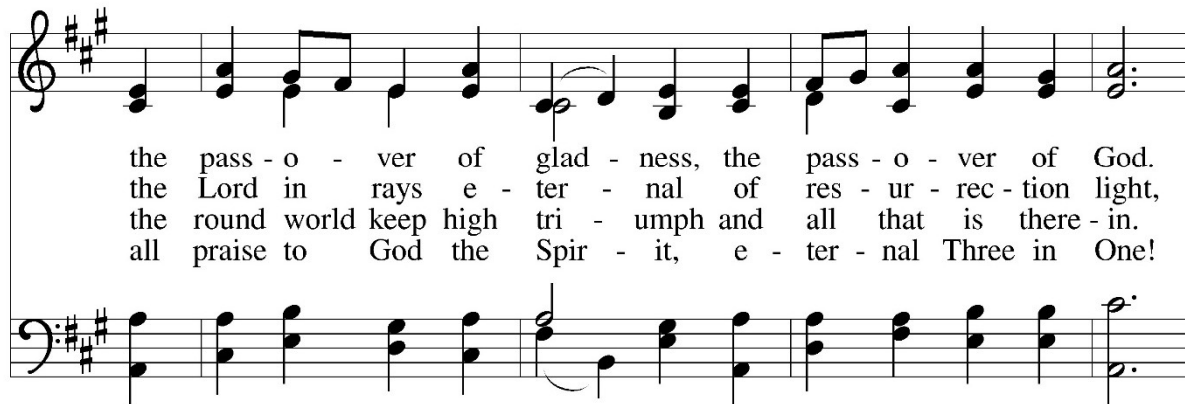
Our mourn - ing and weep - ing has turned to re-joic - ing, the



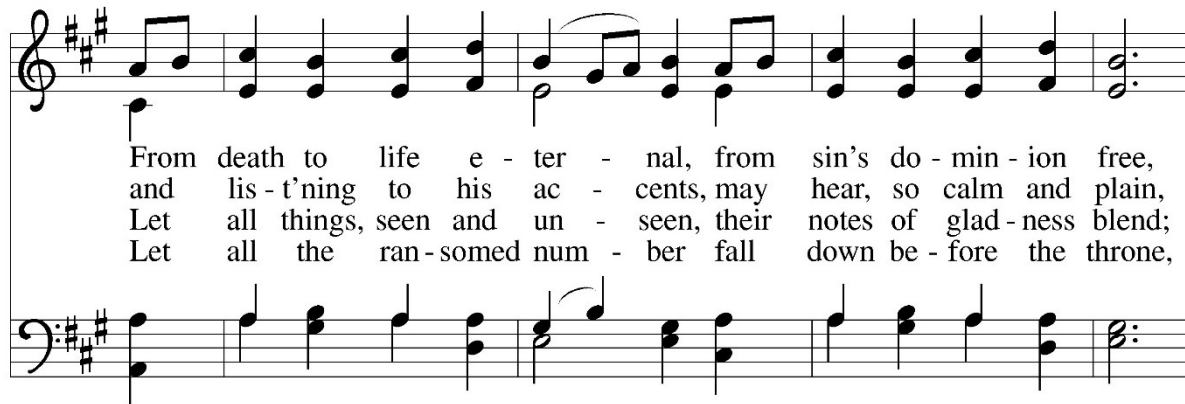
stones from our tombs have been rolled a - way. Life has come from death to-day now!



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,  
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,  
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.  
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;  
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.  
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!  
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

## Holy Week 2026 at Messiah Lutheran Church, Amherst, NH

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Palm Sunday</b><br/>March 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM</p> <p>We will have a palm processional (which will become next year's Ash Wednesday ashes) and then enter into Holy Week with communion.</p>                                                                                                                                                |
|    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Maundy Thursday, Triduum Day 1</b><br/>April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 PM</p> <p>We will gather for footwashing, scripture, prayer and commemorate Jesus instituting the Lord's Supper. The service ends in silence with a bare chancel.</p>                                                                                                         |
|    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Good Friday, Triduum Day 2</b><br/>April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 PM</p> <p>At our annual meeting we voted to accept Church of Our Saviour's invitation to worship with them on this evening. We will join their service of shadows.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Church of Our Saviour, Milford<br/>10 Amherst Street, Milford, NH 03055</p> |
|   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Easter Vigil, Triduum Day 3</b><br/>April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM</p> <p>We will resume the triduum gathering outside around a new fire (weather permitting) and then move inside for scripture, prayer and communion as we begin celebrating Jesus' resurrection.</p>                                                                          |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Easter</b><br/>April 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM</p> <p>We will fully embrace the good news of Jesus' resurrection and what the empty tomb means for us. We will have scripture, prayer and Holy Communion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Easter brunch will follow worship.</p>                                                               |

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