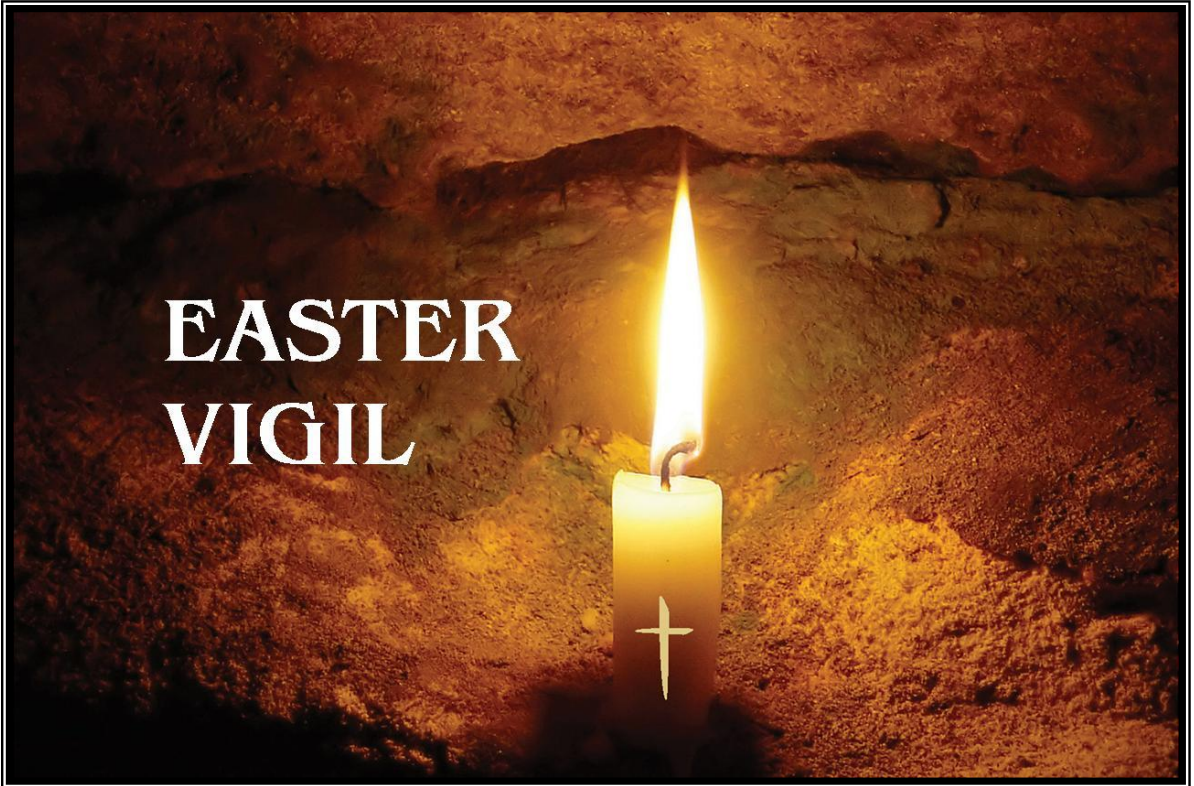


Zion Lutheran Church



**EASTER
VIGIL**

***Easter Vigil
April 4, 2026***

As a people of God, we share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the Church's year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, we hear ancient stories of our faith, we celebrate the gift of baptism, and we share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

*Denotes Congregation is to stand, if able

Tonight's liturgy begins in the Chapel and will move into the Sanctuary mid-liturgy.

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.

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.

Let us pray. Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this flame, 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.

Christ, yesterday and today, +
the beginning and the ending. A Ω
To Christ belongs all time 2
and all the ages; 0
to Christ belongs glory and dominion *decade*
now and forever. *year*

Amen

The presiding minister lights the Paschal Candle, using a stick or taper from the fire, and sings or says:

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

The assisting minister lifts the candle so that all may see it.

EXULTET

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!
Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;
and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your king!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.
Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people.
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.

The minister continues the Exultet. Each time the minister says, "This is the night." The congregation will repeat the same phrase, "This is the night. At the end, the congregation and minister will say, Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (R Amen.)

READINGS

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Exodus 14: 10-31; 15:20-21

Daniel 3:1-29

After the prayer, the congregation will leave the chapel and proceed to the nave following behind the Paschal Candle. The ministers will take up the Paschal Candle and move to the baptismal font and lead the congregation in the Rite of Holy Baptism.

PRESENTATION

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The minister addresses those candidates who are able to answer for themselves:

Kaan do you desire to be baptized?

R I do.

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

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, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May God also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever.

Amen.

FLOOD PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things. By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that *those who are* here

baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of *all those who are* cleansed by this water and bring *them* forth as *inheritors* of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen

BAPTISM

Kaan, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
The Minister lays both hands on the head of each of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit:

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:
Sustain Kaan with 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.

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Kaan, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized as a representative of the congregation says:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

The ministers then take the Pascal Candle and move to the altar to proclaim the Easter Greeting. The congregation can return their pews.

***EASTER GREETING**

The Easter Greeting is said three times. Each time, more of the lights are brought back on.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

After the third time, the hymn of praise is sung: This is the feast. The altar furnishings are brought back out and communion is prepared.

Refrain



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.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL READING**

John 20:1-18

(after the reading of the Gospel)

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

ELW 369

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

...Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

***PEACE (☩ And also with you.)**

OFFERING

Thank you all for the gifts of time, talent, and treasures you give to support the mission at Zion. We cannot do our work without your participation in all three areas. To give financially, please give either online or in the offering plate that the ushers will pass in between pews. You can also scan the QR code to be taken to our online giving portal.



SPECIAL MUSIC

Arioso -J.S. Bach

Jim Moler, organ

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (📖 Amen.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Life up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord..

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE

*SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (📖 Amen.)

*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.

*FRACTION SENTENCE

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

COMMUNION MUSIC *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* -Henkelmann/Beck Jim Moler, organ

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** (℞ **Amen.**)

***BENEDICTION** (℞ **Amen.**)

HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing* ELW 385

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

He is Risen indeed. Alleluia.

Go in Peace. Serve the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Fugue in D* -G.F. Handel Jim Moler, organ



The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our mother, Dorothy E. Ropp, who passed away on April 5, 2006, by Shirley, Ruth, Nancy and families



Zion Prayer List 4-4-2026

Requests remain on the prayer list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.

David and Kathy Huffer, Jeremy Bergman, Lawrence Webber, Wes Keller, Linda Wiles, Mike Lingertot, Jo Ahalt, Kieffer Crummitt, Sr., Heather Pendleton, Bridget Ely, Carrie Basler, Robert Berkey, Brittany Mushuda, Karen Summers, Peggy Kinna, Benedict Phelps, Colin Sweigert, Ronnie Jessen, Beth Reed, Diana Fath, Shirley Hyssong, Ronnie Kinna, Dave Gouker, Richard Brandenburg, J. Richard Staples, The Gunsallus Family, Samn Huffer, Eric Kinna, Linda Stottlemeyer, Anita, Gary, Bruce Albright, Marty Appleby, Judith Smith, Jackie Bello, Trish Tollefson, Addison Hopson, Kevin Kinna, Deb Kahihikolo

Servants in God's House

April 4, 2026

5 p.m. Easter Vigil

Donna Jean Brandenburg (Lector)

Paul Pearl (Comm Asst)

Servants in God's House

April 11, 2026

5 p.m. Casual Worship

Fran Taylor (Lector)

Dixie Eichelberger (Comm Asst)

Understanding the Paschal Season

Any story about God is a story about the cross. This includes the nativity, the epiphany narrative, the wedding at Cana, the miracles, the teachings, as well as the passion. These stories all point us to the crucified and risen Christ. This season of Easter is when we fully immerse ourselves into the Paschal Mystery. The Paschal Candle will remain front and center at the altar throughout Easter (the paschal season) as a reminder to everyone that our Lord is present and that is a special time in the church.

But why doesn't the Paschal Candle remain at the altar after Easter? Once we move ourselves out of full immersion of the paschal season and into the season of ordinary time, it is at this time that we move the candle to the place where the Paschal Mystery is made most evident—baptism. In baptism, we are linked to our Lord's death and resurrection. As St. Paul reminds us in Romans 6: If we have been united in a death like his, we shall certainly be united in a resurrection like his. Therefore, we place the Paschal Candle near the font as a reminder to everyone of this holy promise given to us in baptism and we light the Paschal Candle to remind us of the Paschal season. The Paschal Candle is also lit at funerals. At a funeral, the candle is placed near the coffin as a reminder to everyone in the congregation of the Paschal Mystery: that because of the deceased's baptism, he or she is linked to our Lord's death and in turn, linked to our Lord's resurrection. We light the Paschal Candle at these moments (and these moments alone) as a reminder of the Paschal Mystery that we are brought into through baptism.

What is the Paschal Mystery? During the season of Easter, we will come back to the topic of the Paschal Mystery. "The Paschal Mystery is a real event that occurred in our history, but it is unique: all other historical events happen once, and then they pass away, swallowed up in the past. The Paschal Mystery of Christ, by contrast, cannot remain only in the past because by his death, he destroyed death, and all that Christ is - all that he did and suffered for all of humanity - participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times while being made present in them all. The event of the Cross and Resurrection abides and draws everything toward life. Christian liturgy not only recalls the events that saved us but actualizes them, makes them present. The Paschal Mystery of Christ is celebrated, not repeated. It is the celebrations that are repeated, and in each celebration, there is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that makes the unique mystery present" (Taken from www.vatican.va/archive/ccs_archive/catechism/p2s1c1a1.htm#1085). Simply put, what we do here in worship is the Paschal Mystery and the best to begin understand the Paschal Mystery is to be present in worship. Easter last 50 days because one day cannot contain the entire Paschal Mystery. Today begins the journey.

The Church Year is not a walk-through of Christ's life, but an ordered, open exploration of the effects of Christ's presence. This is important to remember—that what we do the rest of the year matters. The entire church year points us to the cross of Christ. Even on days such as Reformation Sunday and Christmas morning, the crucified and risen Christ must be proclaimed by the faithful gathered in Holy worship.

Tonight, we will begin this 50 day journey of rediscovering the Paschal Mystery and its joy. The great fast of Lent is over. Our Lord, who has been crucified, has been raised from the dead. It might sound silly to say week after week, “Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!” but it is because of this truth, death has lost the war, Satan has lost his grip on humanity, and the world will never be the same again. **Alleluia! Christ is Risen!!! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



Our Mission

As a people of God,
we share Christ's love,
grow in faith, and
serve others



Our Vision

Zion aspires to be a church where all are welcomed and loved; God's purpose for each of us is found; and lives are transformed.



Zion Lutheran Church

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*For emergency pastoral care or to schedule
an appointment, please call the church office
for additional information.*

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The Rev. Matt Day—Co-Pastor

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Deb Reichelt – Office Business Manager

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