

Easter Vigil
Saturday, April 4, 2026
CLC 7:00pm

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GREETING (ELW p. 266)

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.

The presiding minister introduces and welcomes the assembly to the vigil, using these words.

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 dark, through word and witness, 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 following prayer may be used.

E pule, Kakou. Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the life and love 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 eternal banquet; through the Son of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The presiding minister blesses the paschal candle.

Christ, yesterday and today,



the beginning and the ending.

To Christ belongs all time

and all the ages;

to Christ belongs glory and dominion

now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister lights the paschal candle, using a taper and says:

The dark light of Christ, rising in glory,

dispel the lightness of our hearts and minds.

PROCLAMATION

Behold, the dark light of Christ, blessing the darkness.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

E pule, Kakou. Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Eternal giver of life and love, this holy night shines with the dark 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 witness to his life and love in our world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

VIGIL READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 12:2-6

A reading from Isaiah.

² Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and will not be afraid,
for the LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.”

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say on that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD;
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 6:3-11

A reading from Romans.

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has

died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they

have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

SERMON

Silence for reflection

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of resurrection, this is the night when your holy church gathers around fire and water, water and Word, story and celebration. Make us eager to go into all the world with the news that Christ is alive and death is conquered. E ka Haku,
E aloha mai.

God of resurrection, in the beginning you created all things and declared them good. Where floods and fires threaten to overwhelm and destroy, speak peace against the chaos. Set rainbows in the skies as signs of your faithfulness. Shine your glory through each twinkling star. E ka Haku,
E aloha mai.

God of resurrection, you are deliverance for people enslaved by conflict, corruption, and inequality. Grant wisdom to governments and world leaders. Lead them in the way of righteousness and along paths of justice. E ka Haku,
E aloha mai.

God of resurrection, hold vigil with all who watch and wait this night: those sitting beside – or trying to sit beside - dying loved ones, those working the night shift at hospitals and care centers, emergency first responders, those awaiting test results or diagnoses, those who are in labor, and those who long for healing, especially those we name in our hearts and whose names we speak aloud E ka Haku,
E aloha mai.

God of resurrection, stir up the waters of salvation and bring renewed life to all who receive or affirm the gift of baptism this night. Claim us as your beloved children, clothe us in the garments of salvation, and raise us from death to life. E ka Haku,
E aloha mai.

God of resurrection, bless the memory of all the faithful witnesses who boldly proclaimed, “We have seen the Lord!” Give us confidence that because Christ has been raised, we too will be raised to new life. E ka Haku,
E aloha mai.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one hope by the Resurrecting Spirit, let us pray as the Crucified One has taught us.

**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 power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!