

## Welcome to the Easter Vigil!

A vigil is a time of praying, waiting, and watching. We start out in the Memorial Garden. Jesus is God-With-Us, all the way to death. On Good Friday, we tell the story of when Jesus was crucified – that shows us how BIG the love of God is! Tonight our stories remind us how STRONG God’s love is. Our service has four parts:



**Fire** – we gather around the fire to light our Paschal candle, ancient symbol of Christ – as we follow it, we light our own candles – Jesus lights our way out of darkness!



**Story** – the Paschal candle brings us to a stop *outside* the sanctuary to remind us of waiting in the dark outside the closed-up grave. We will do what people do when someone dies: we tell the family stories. Our best stories all tell how God has saved, again and again – and we finish with that Good News that we’ve been waiting for!



**Water** – we celebrate a baptism, and thank God for our own baptism - where each of our own stories is pulled into this big story of God’s saving love in Jesus.



**Food** – this is the Feast of Victory! Christ is here with us in his body and blood. (And finally, we break our Lenten “fasts” with a feast of roasted marshmallows.)

The Easter Vigil connects us with very old traditions, uses all our senses, and physically moves us from the place of death to the feast of life. We use some ancient liturgy, get silly telling the stories we love, sing “Alleluia!” at the top of our lungs. No written bulletin, just a lot of “repeat after me.” It’s new to many of us, and we’re invited to join in this different kind of worship with a sense of openness and flexibility. This is the night!

## Light of Christ

Light of Christ, ris - ing in glo - ry, dis - pel the dark - ness of our hearts and minds.

## Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

## Taste and See

*Refrain – All*

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh, taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.