

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10 a.m. Sunday 5 April 2026

Easter Sunday

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT**

Greeting and Introduction:

Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ our Lord.

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

On this most holy morning

in which Jesus Christ passed over from death to life

we gather as the Church to watch and pray.

This is the Passover of Christ,

in which we share in Christ's victory over death.

Opening Prayer:

God of life,

through Jesus Christ

you have bestowed upon the world the light of Life.

Sanctify this new fire,

and grant that our hearts and minds may also be kindled

with holy desire to shine forth with the brightness

of Christ's rising,

that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Paschal Candle: *The leader lights the Paschal*

Candle from the fire, saying:

The light of Christ rises in glory,

overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

The Paschal Candle is lifted so that all may see it,

and the leader says:

Christ is our Light!

*Procession into the Church: 302 "Christ the Lord
Is Risen Today"

*Easter Proclamation:

(2)

Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Sing, choirs of angels!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,

radiant in the brightness of our King!

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Amen.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introduction**: Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds

in history,

and pray that each of us may receive

the fullness of this grace.

First Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

Psalter: *(Insert, read in unison)* Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:1-4

*Hymn of Preparation: 322 "Up from the Grave He Arose"

*Gospel: John 20:1-18

Sermon

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

Children's Time

THE SERVICE OF THE WATER (Page 50ff)

THE SERVICE OF THE BREAD AND CUP (Page 12ff)

(All are welcome)

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SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 702 "Sing with All the Saints in Glory"

*Dismissal with Blessing**:
We are sent forth
in the power of Christ's resurrection.
Alleluia!
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
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Amen.

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing.

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