



IN HOLY WEEK AND EASTER...

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR
DISARMAMENT AND PEACE



HOLY WEEK 2026

May Holy Week be a time of increasing our understanding of Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life.

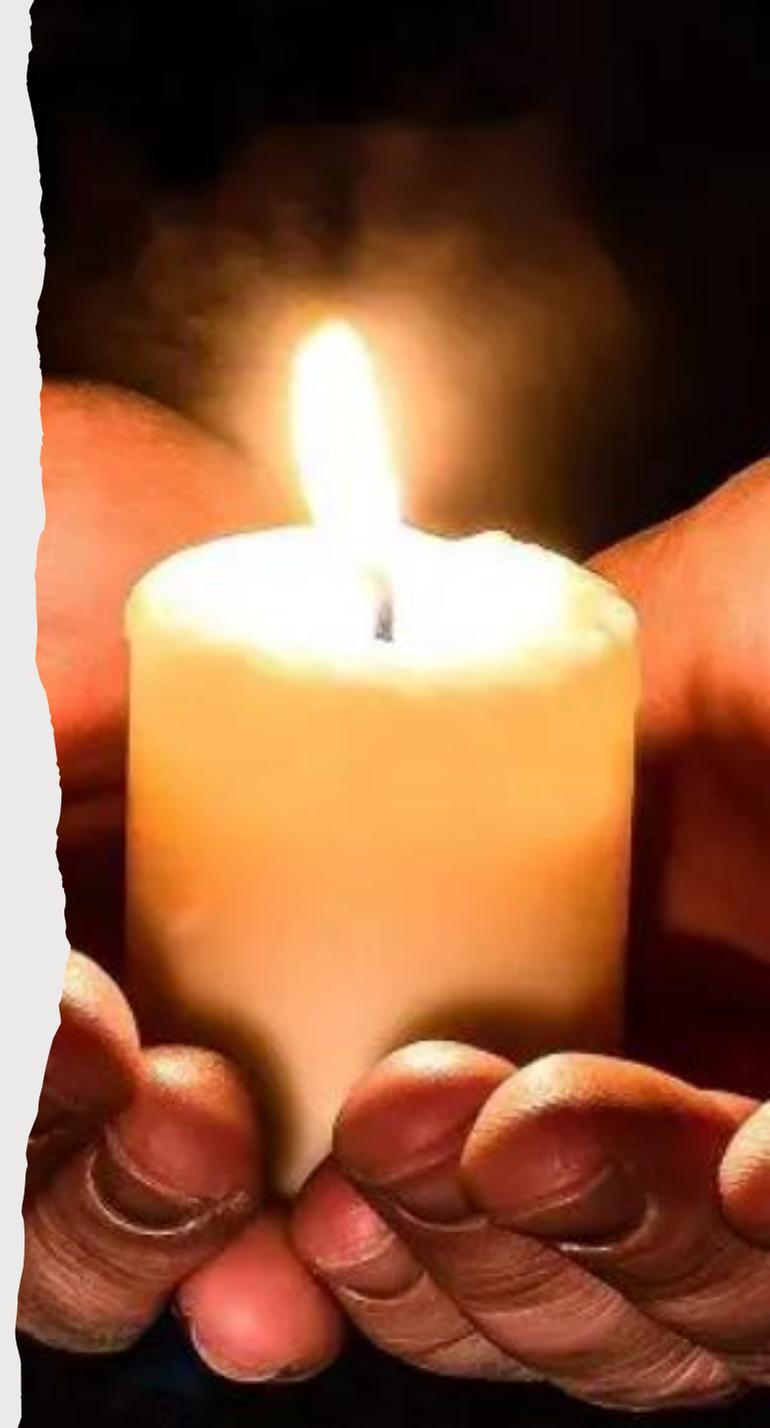
May this time deepen our experience of the reality that God's love enfolds us, transforming sorrow into joy, darkness into light, and death into the fullness of life.





We pray for peace

During Holy Week,
we continue to pray
for all who are suffering
the injustice
and heart-breaking
devastation of war.



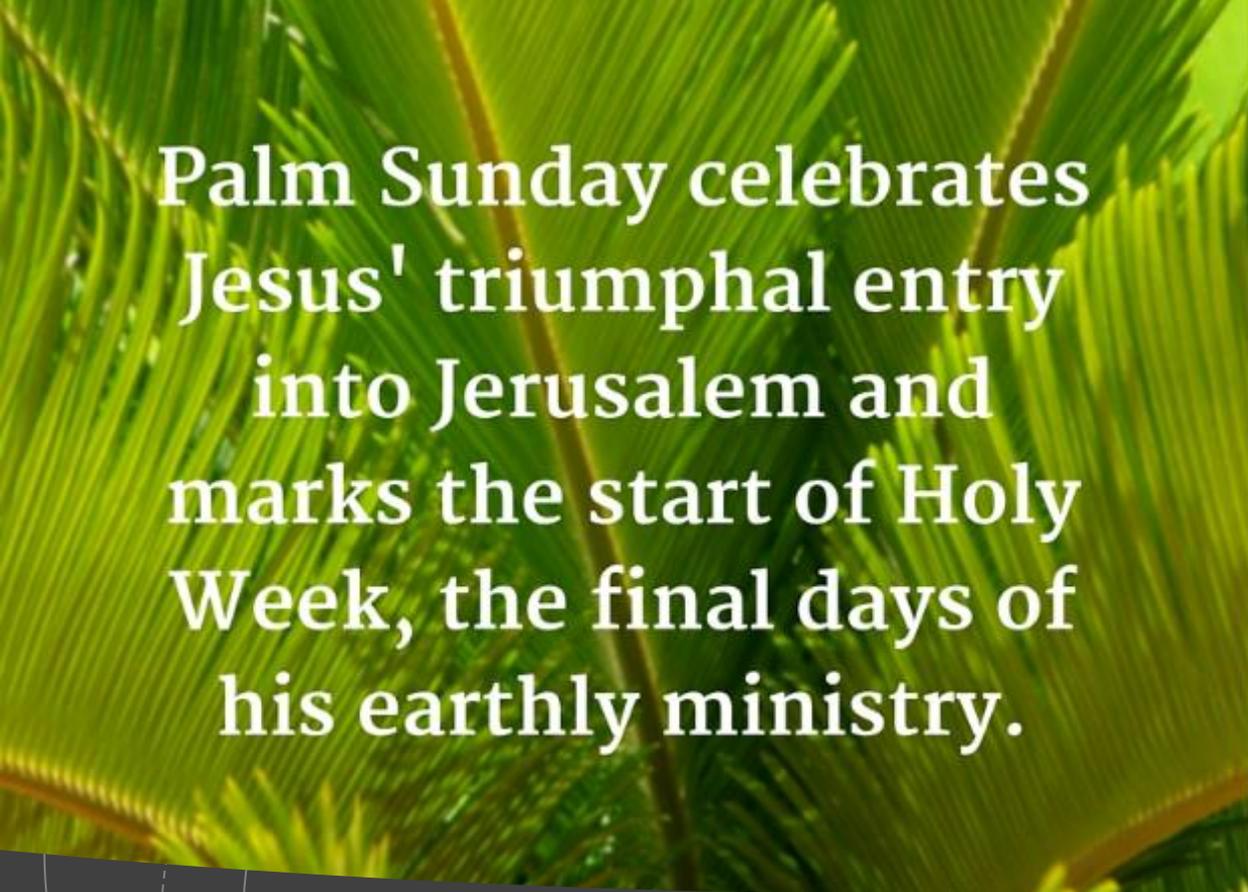
Prayer for Holy Week

O, God, as we journey through Holy Week
and through this uncertain time of
challenge towards the cross,
May we remember
the wonder of who You are.
Beyond sickness,
Your healing brings wholeness.
Beyond sin, Your compassion is inexhaustible.
Beyond brokenness, Your forgiveness is
incomprehensible.
Beyond war, your love brings peace
Beyond betrayal, Your grace is poured out
eternally.
Beyond death, Your life is unimaginable.
Beyond human understanding,
Your ways are always higher than ours.





Palm Sunday March 29, 2026
Gospel: Matthew 26:14—27:66



Palm Sunday celebrates
Jesus' triumphal entry
into Jerusalem and
marks the start of Holy
Week, the final days of
his earthly ministry.



*Blessed is the
one who comes
in the name of
the Lord!*

Matthew 21:9

PALM SUNDAY

At the Procession with Palms – Gospel - Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once." This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:
*Say to daughter Zion,
"Behold, your king comes to you,
meek and riding on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."*



At the Procession with Palms - Gospel Matthew 21:1-11 (contd)

The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them.

They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them,

and he sat upon them.

The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road.

The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying:

"Hosanna to the Son of David;

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest."

And when he entered Jerusalem

the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?"

And the crowds replied,

"This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."





View this short video about Holy Week
<https://bustedhalo.com/video/holy-week-in-two-minutes>

*Palm
Sunday*



What Kind of King are You?

What kind of King
rides on a donkey
a donkey that might be borrowed,
or might be hijacked?

What kind of King
builds a castle
with a wide open door for children to enter
but a needle-eye sized hole for the rich?

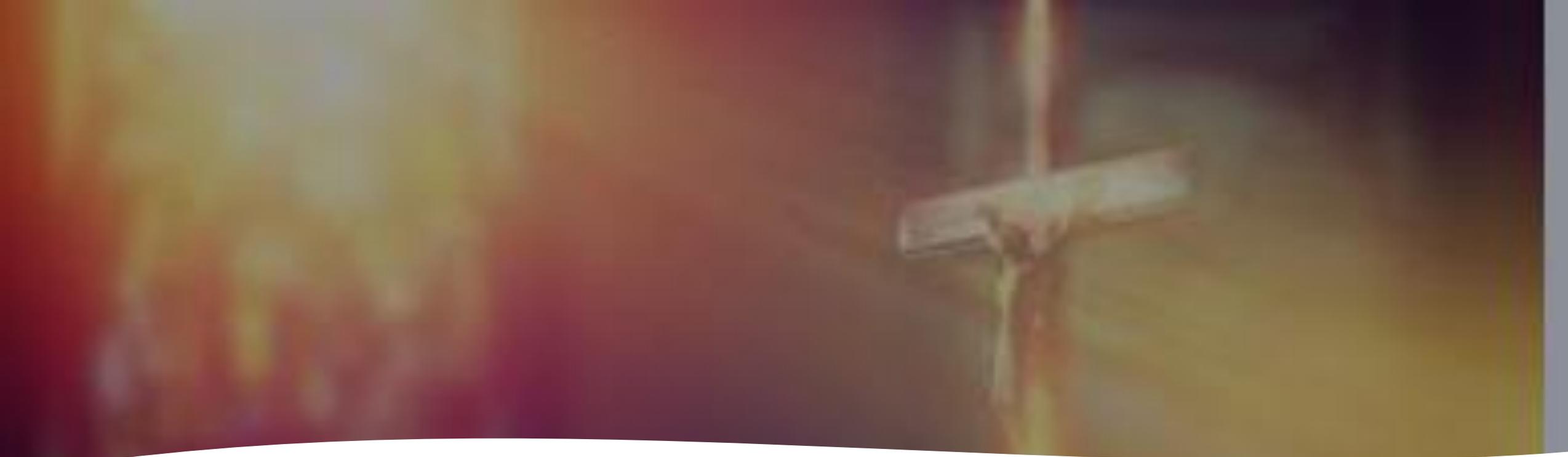
What kind of King
rides on a donkey
into the city where
his assassins are waiting?

What kind of King
lets his followers send a
public message to the competing powers?

What kind of King are you?

What kind of King
can send two followers
to fetch a donkey
and know exactly what they'll need to say?

What kind of King
can tell a blind beggar
"Your faith has made you well."
And actually make him see?



**'No one has greater
love than this,
to lay down one's life
for one's friends'
(John 15:13)**

Though suffering and chaos befall us,
they can never quench that inner light of providence.

The human journey is a continuous act of transfiguration.

The Chrism Mass

- The Chrism Mass is a high point in the life of a diocese each year. It is a public celebration of the family of faith: all people gathered together in communion with the Bishop.
- During this liturgy, the sacramental oils are blessed and consecrated, and the priests, together with the Bishop, renew their priestly promises.
- (Picture from the Diocese of Cork and Ross).



Spy Wednesday / Holy Wednesday



Holy Wednesday is also called
Spy Wednesday
because this is believed to be
the day on which
Judas Iscariot made arrangements
to betray Jesus
in exchange for thirty pieces of silver.

Easter Triduum

The high point of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum —from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday.

The liturgical services that take place during the Triduum are:

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday is
the commemoration
of the
Last Supper of Jesus

Jesus celebrated the supper as a Passover feast.
The Last Supper was the final meal Jesus shared
with his Disciples in Jerusalem.
During the meal, Jesus predicts his betrayal.

- See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1R9Z9gkOck>



A night reflection for Holy Thursday

Pat Pierce/CAFOD (Adapted)

Jesus arrested, judged, found guilty and condemned to die
is held captive overnight.

If I were arrested and held this night, what would I be found guilty of?
That I made friends with people irrespective of their colour, creed or class....

That I shared my bread with the poor....

That my words... and actions... brought healing and forgiveness....

That I worked for justice and
didn't count the cost

That I sought the truth and then spoke of it....

That I met God along the way in the healing and forgiveness I received....



Good Friday



Good Friday

Good Friday is the day on which Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Liturgical Service: Key elements include the reading of the Passion, solemn intercessions, and the Adoration of the Cross.

Good Friday is a day of fasting within the Church

Stations of the Cross

THE WAY OF THE CROSS:
TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

- https://www.trocaire.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/CH3_Stations-of-the-Cross_2023.pdf?type=parish





Were you there
when they
crucified my
Lord?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtEH-NfEqIc>





Holy Saturday

... a day of patient waiting

when we prayerfully

reflect on the

passion and death of

Christ and await his

resurrection.



-
- “Every Holy Saturday, the Church waits as it were beside the tomb, meditating on Christ's death while awaiting the announcement of his resurrection. Like John, we can take Mary into our homes and ponder with her the last words of Christ. Like her, we can rest in a place between anguish and joy, waiting in quiet hope... A new day will come. His Cross is not defeat; it is victory!”
— Sarah Christmyer, [Walk in Her Sandals: Experiencing Christ's Passion through the Eyes of Women](#)

Join Knock Shrine on Holy
Saturday for Morning
Prayer

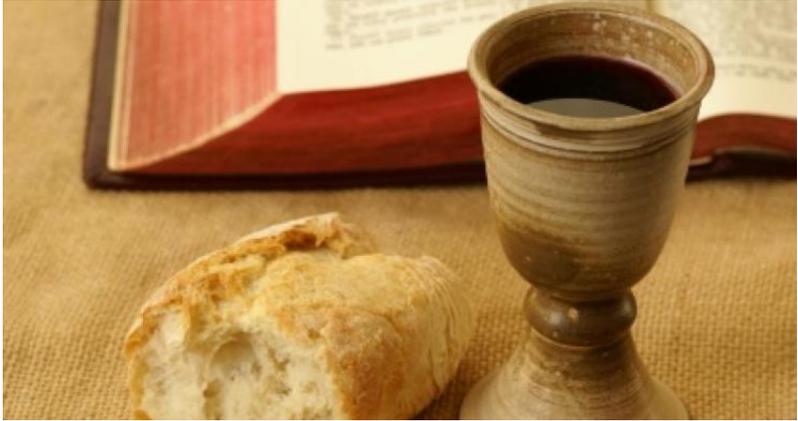
<https://www.knockshrine.ie/holy-saturday-2026-schedule-of-ceremonies/>





“There is silence in the
long wait of
Holy Saturday...when grief
is lived in solitude.”

Yet God’s apparent silence
is not God’s absence...
It is “not closure but a
transition until the silence
is broken by a familiar
voice that speaks our
name.”



Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil,
celebrated on Holy
Saturday evening,
marks the beginning
of Easter.



- In the Liturgy, we have:
 - Service of Light
 - Liturgy of the Word
 - Liturgy of Baptism
 - Liturgy of the Eucharist.





THE SERVICE OF LIGHT





The Easter Fire

At the Easter Vigil, the Paschal candle is lit from this new fire.



The Paschal Candle



-
- The Paschal Candle is the great Christian symbol of Easter.
 - It is lit from the Easter fire at the start of the Easter vigil. Representing the risen Christ – the light of the world – the Paschal Candle is carried into the darkened church.
 - Everyone in the congregation lights their small candle from this Easter candle.



We listen to the music of *The Light of Christ*

-
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbLHOA6mRKk>



This magnificent lighting up of the darkness is a powerful reflection of the presence of Jesus among the people...

Christ is alive and living among them



The Paschal Candle
is placed on a high stand by the altar and remains lighting for every Liturgy over the fifty days of Easter.

- After the season of Easter, the paschal candle is placed beside the baptismal font and is lit for every celebration of Baptism. A new paschal candle is lit each Easter.





Easter Proclamation: Exsultet

- The *Exsultet* is the Easter Proclamation, sung at the end of the Service of Light, the first part of the Easter Vigil. It tells the story of the whole Easter mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Easter Proclamation: *Exsultet*

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YETnSx9HuMo>
- From Glenstal Abbey

- The Exsultet is sung in the light of the paschal candle at the Easter Vigil. This great poetic text proclaims the history of salvation and its fulfilment in the mystery of Easter.





THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Easter Vigil Readings 2026
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/040426.cfm>



THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM



THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Through the celebration of the Eucharist, the Church continues to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord.



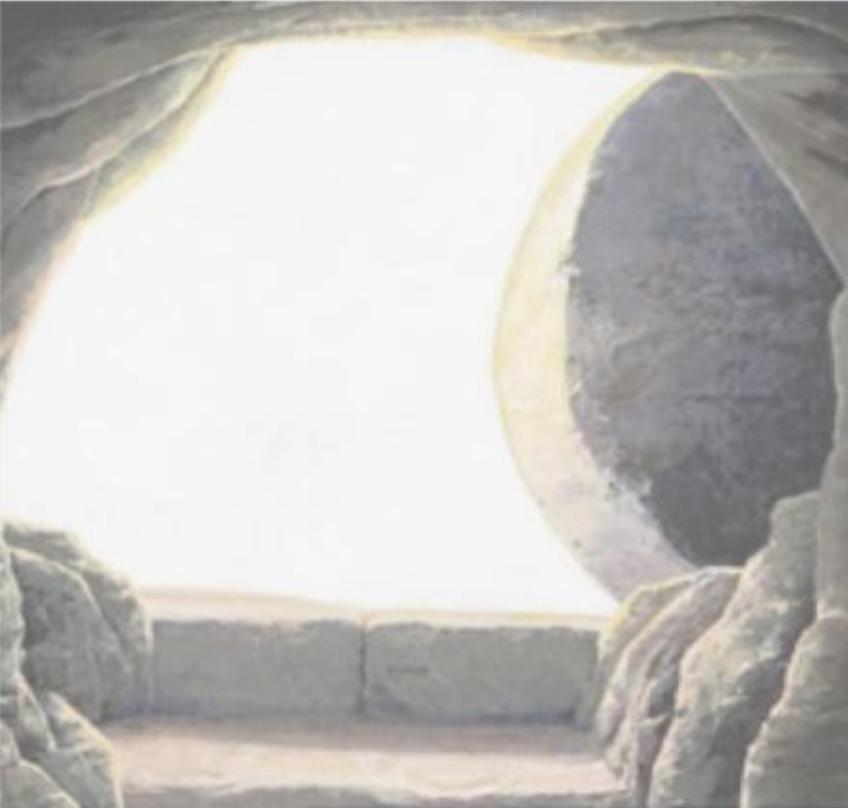


Easter Sunday

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HY9PM9sWhw>

The festive atmosphere of Resurrection continues from the Easter Vigil, and the worship space is decorated with beautiful flowers, especially white lilies.





For Christians, Easter is the most important event in the Liturgical Year.

Alleluia



Handel's Messiah:



Hallelujah Chorus



[Handel's Messiah: Hallelujah Chorus \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



A close-up photograph of several golden-brown grass heads against a bright, hazy sunset sky. The sun is visible in the upper right corner, creating a warm, golden glow. The grasses are in sharp focus, with some showing fine details of their seed heads. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape of green grass and distant hills.

HAPPY EASTER!