

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9



EASTER VIGIL

MARCH 30, 2024

5:00 PM



AS WE GATHER

In the Early Church, when new Christians were baptized, fragrant oil was often placed upon them to remind them of their new life of joy in Christ Jesus, who Himself rose from His spiced tomb as the Anointed One of God. This oil set them apart as ones who had been chosen by God, sanctified by His Spirit, and called to spread the sweet aroma of Jesus' love in the world He died to save. In our Easter Vigil service this evening, we, too, will receive the oil of joy and gladness, reminding us that we have been buried with Christ by our Baptism and covered in the fragrance of His resurrection victory. As we await the coming Easter morning, we do so with joyful expectation, knowing that Jesus is the God of new life and new beginnings.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

LSB 477

CALLING ON GOD'S NAME

SPEAKING GOD'S WORD TO ONE ANOTHER

2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5

Pastor: For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,

People: so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Pastor: But He was wounded for our transgressions;

People: He was crushed for our iniquities;

Pastor: upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

People: and with His stripes we are healed.

SEEKING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

Based on Philippians 2:1–11

Pastor: Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

Pastor: With humble hearts, let us pray together:

People: Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.

Pastor: Having borne our sins in Your body on Calvary's tree, You were buried in the tomb as You rested on the Sabbath Day.

People: Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—

Pastor: to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

People: With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who bathes us in Baptism and clothes us with the joy and gladness of new life in Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ HEARING GOD'S WORD ✠

BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

Romans 6:3–5

Pastor: In Holy Baptism, we have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all our sin. Paul says, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

People: "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His."

HYMN

"Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy"

LSB 590

✠ BAPTISM READINGS ✠

THE CREATION

Genesis 1:1–2:3

THE FLOOD

Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

Exodus 14:10–15:1

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL

Isaiah 55:1–11

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

Apostles' Creed

BAPTISM REMEMBRANCE

(All are invited to come forward to the baptismal font to remember their baptisms.)

✠ EASTER VIGIL READINGS ✠

EPISTLE

1 Peter 4:1-8

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 27:57-66

HYMN

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

LSB 487

MESSAGE

"Waiting"

Pastor Donald

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

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PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, through Your Word and Spirit You most wonderfully created all things, and through the Word made flesh You brought new life to fallen humanity.

People: **Grant that in Your mercy we may be conformed to the image of Him who shares fully in our humanity, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: O Lord, You kill and You raise to life; You brought the flood upon a wicked and perverse generation, and yet You saved faithful Noah and his family in the ark.

People: **Keep us in safety in the ark of Christ’s Body, the Church, that Your mercy may come to its fullness and Your salvation be preached to the ends of the earth.**

Pastor: O God, You once delivered Your people Israel from bondage under Pharaoh and led them by a pillar of cloud and fire through the sea to safety.

People: **Grant that we may so follow Christ that through the waters of Baptism we may daily die and rise with Him and walk in safety through the wilderness of this life until we see Your salvation.**

Pastor: Almighty God, by Your Word You created and sustain all things, and by Your Spirit You renew Your creation.

People: **Grant now the water of life to all who thirst for You that they may bring forth abundant fruit in Your glorious kingdom.**

Pastor: Healing Savior, by the oil of joy and gladness You anoint those who are baptized into Your holy name and grant them healing in both body and soul.

People: **Keep us in everlasting communion with You that by Your Word and Spirit our hearts may be prepared for our resurrection to eternal life.**

Pastor: For You, Lord Jesus Christ, reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Pastor: Christ is risen! **People:** **He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

BENEDICTION

HYMN

“I Know that My Redeemer Lives”

LSB 461, Sts. 1, 2, 7, 8

Jim Vyhanek, organ/piano