

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church
March 31, 2018 6:00 p.m.
Resurrection of Our Lord: Vigil of Easter

Gathering

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

The service begins in darkness, after nightfall. The lighting of a new fire takes place outside the church building, if possible.

All gather in silence.

A small unlighted candle may be given to each worshiper.

Greeting

P: 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.

P: 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 the word, 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 new fire is lighted. The following prayer may be used. The presiding minister waits until the fire is burning before praying.

P: Let us pray.

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

Amen.

P: 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 stick or taper from the fire, and sings or says:

P: The light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The assisting minister lifts the candle so that all may see it.

Procession

The procession begins, led by the assisting minister bearing the paschal candle. During or after the procession, light from the paschal candle may be passed until the people's candles are all lighted.

As the procession begins, the assisting minister reads:

A.M: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The procession continues, stopping at midpoint. The assisting minister lifts the paschal candle and reads loud:

A.M: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The procession continues. The assisting minister takes the paschal candle to its stand, lifts it high and read louder:

A.M: The light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

The paschal candle is placed in its stand.

Easter Proclamation

A.M: Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!
Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;
and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your king!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.
Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice
we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin.
For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain,
by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

This is the night

C: This is the night

AM: in which, in ancient times,
you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,
and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.

This is the night

C: This is the night

P: in which heaven and earth are joined—things human and things divine.

We, therefore, pray to you, O God,
that this candle, burning to the honor of your name,
will continue to vanquish the darkness of night
and be mingled with the lights of heaven.

May Christ the Morning Star find it burning,
that Morning Star who never sets,
that Morning Star who, rising from the grave,
faithfully sheds light on the whole human race.
And we pray, O God, rule, govern, and preserve
with your continual protection your whole church,
giving us peace in this time of our paschal rejoicing;
through the same Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

P: Let us pray.

O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The assembly is seated. Hand-held candles may be extinguished.

Hymn **“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”** **#708, vs. 1**

Service of the Word

A.M.: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

A.M.: Let us read the Psalm responsively.

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.
²**Give thanks to the God of gods,
for God's mercy endures forever.**
³Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for God's mercy endures forever;
⁴**who alone does great wonders,
for God's mercy endures forever;**
⁵who by wisdom made the heavens,
for God's mercy endures forever;
⁶**who spread out the earth upon the waters,
for God's mercy endures forever;**
⁷who made the great lights—
for God's mercy endures forever;
⁸**the sun to govern the day,
for God's mercy endures forever;**
⁹the moon and the stars to govern the night,
for God's mercy endures forever;
²³**who remembered us in our low estate,
for God's mercy endures forever;**
²⁴and rescued us from our enemies,
for God's mercy endures forever;
²⁵**who gives food to all creatures,
for God's mercy endures forever.**
²⁶Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for God's mercy endures forever.

A.M: Let us pray

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn **“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”** **#708, vs. 3**
Reading: Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone and let us serve the

Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”¹³ But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again.¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward.¹⁶ But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.¹⁷ Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.”

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic.²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.”

²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

^{15:20} Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.²¹ And Miriam

sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Silent reflection.

Hymn

“Christ, Be Our Light”

#715 vss. 1 & 2

Reading: Isaiah 12:2-6

Let us read Isaiah responsively

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

³**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God’s name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this
name is exalted.

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

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

Prayer

Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

As the lights in the church are turned up, the altar candles are lighted, bells are rung, dressing the altar and an alleluia verse, an extended alleluia.

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

#172

A.M.: Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had

been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

P: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Easter Homily written by St. John Chrysostom (400 A.D.)

Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, was born at Antioch in about the year 347 into the family of a military commander. In the year 386 Saint John was ordained presbyter by Bishop Flavian of Antioch. Saint John was a splendid preacher, and his inspired words earned him the name "Golden-Mouthed" ("Chrysostom"). He is known for his preaching and public speaking, his denunciation of abuse of authority by both ecclesiastical and political leaders. He experienced persecution by other Christian leaders and he was sent to exile. At the crypt of Saint Basiliscus (May 22), Saint John was comforted by a vision of the martyr, who said, "Despair not, brother John! Tomorrow we shall be together." After receiving the Holy Mysteries, the hierarch fell asleep in the Lord on September 14, 407. His last words were, "Glory to God for all things!"

Hymn

"Hallelujah! Jesus lives!

#380, vss. 1 & 5

A.M.: Prayers of Intercession

On this most holy night, Christ passes from death to life, and the whole creation shouts for joy. We pray that the light of Christ will continue to transform the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Shine the light of Christ on your church gathered in prayer, O God. Lead us to the shadowy places of this world and there give us humility to speak a word of newness and grace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

By the light of Christ, fuel justice and equity in and among the nations of this world. We pray particularly for the people and faith communities of the Holy Land, and for all lands ravaged by strife or warfare. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

By the light of Christ, warm the hearts of those in need and comfort those who care for them. We pray especially for those who will die soon. Bring them to dance with you on the safe side of the sea. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let Christ's everlasting light shine on the faithful departed, who, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, sing the eternal song of all creation's praise. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are light, O God; you are life. We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to your care, trusting in the one who is the firstborn of the dead, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Great Thanksgiving of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

The Lord's Prayer

A.M.: Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Lamb of God

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Communion Hymn "One Bread, One Body"

#496

Prayer after Communion

A.M: Life-giving God,
in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness,
water to give new life,
and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection
that we may show your glory to all the world;
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

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

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn "Thine Is the Glory"

#376

Dismissal

A.M: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

I will and I ask God to help me.

Postlude

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Prayer Concerns: Thelma Bursik, Neil Coakley, Joella Corado (Maggie Westaby's cousin), Jerrilynn Duxbury, Betty Jane Kettunen, Justin Nickolai, Esther Osterby, Barb Peterson, Dolores Riege, Pam (Rodney Riese's wife), Dina Sarras, Kathrine Sylvia Sarras, Norm Winterhoff, April Winters (Jamie Rice-Heckendorf's niece), Breanna Kurth, Meredith Westaby, Connor Rice (Jamie Rice-Heckendorf's cousin), Janci Treutel, Ashley Nickolai, Lucy Peterson, and Youa Xiong & Shelby Brod (Serenity Hulstrom's Friends)

Noisy offering will be Sunday, April 1st. Social Concerns uses the money to help feed the needy in our area. Contact Marge Warner with any questions.

Greetings and grace to all of you at Immanuel Lutheran Church. I have been in contact with your pastor and your president and we have decided, together, to spend some time in conversation to explore new ways of communicating with one another. Your congregation has experienced recent change and there are rich lessons that come from that. We will explore what the future might hold with the learning that has already happened.

I work with our synod office and I am trained to work with the systems of the church. My passion is the health of the system - the climate that makes people want to join your congregation!

I hope that you will take the time to join us in conversation on Sunday, April 29th following worship service.

Joan Johanson

We will be sending a care package to Ashley Nickolai April 5th. Example of items: books, cards, treats. You may bring your items and place them in the box in Narthex.

Pictures – Church Directory Time! It's time to create an updated church photo directory! We will once again be partnering with Lifetouch to complete a church directory. They will be here April 12th-14th to take photographs. Watch for additional information as well as phone call messages with additional information. There will be no obligation to purchase; each family receives a copy of their directory photo free as well as a directory. If you have any questions, please contact the office or Jamie Rice-Heckendorf. Please sign up on the sheets in the Gathering Room.

We will also need volunteers during the photos shoots. It's a great way to see your fellow worshipers and socialize! To volunteer please contact Jamie Rice-Heckendorf 715-848-4678 or vicepres@immanuelwausau.org

First Communion will be April 15th during worship service.

Synod Assembly 2018 Service Project will be "Blast Off for Books". Purchase a book(s) for a child in need by helping the National Youth Gathering collect 100,000 books for students pre-K through 6th grade in Houston. See the insert for all the information. On the Narthex table is the list of accepted book; only purchase what is on the list. All books must be new or gently used. If you bring books, you may drop them off in the Gathering Room box by May 13th. Please complete the form with your information. The books will be taken to the Synod meeting May 18th.

All Women of ILC-The WI River Valley Conference Women's Spring Event will be held at First English Lutheran Church, Wausau on Saturday, April 14th. Registration: \$15. Checks payable to First English Lutheran Church and turn into ILC office before April 1st.

Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Address is: c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. G.M. Nkale, PO Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa. Pastor email: nkalesto@gmail.com

SERVING US TODAY

Worship Leader	Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras
Assisting Minister	Bob Henning
Ministers	All Members of Immanuel
Pianist	Marino Taylor
Readers	Bob Henning, Rick & Joyce Lohr
Communion Assistant	Bob Henning
Greeters	Rick & Joyce Lohr
Head Usher	Dan Westaby
Presentation Manager	Holly Westaby
Altar Guild	Dan & Holly Westaby
Contact Person	Margaret Johnson

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sat.	Mar. 31	6:00p	Easter Vigil Service, Communion
Sun.	Apr. 01		Easter Sunday
		8:15a	Choir Practice
		9:00a	Communion Worship Service, Choir, Noisy Offering
		10:15a	Easter Breakfast
			Easter Egg Hunt
		10:30a	Choir Practice