

## Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

*(Congregation gathers in silence as the chancel is still darkened)*

### Kindling of the New Fire

*(We remember how often God has chosen fire to symbolize his presence: leading Israel from slavery and the tongues of fire at the day of Pentecost. A new fire is kindled.)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### Introduction

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, remembering the most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, we now gather in this time of Easter dawn to celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. This is the Passover of the Lord in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray.

O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit enkindles the hearts of your faithful people with the fire of your love. Bless, we ask you, this new flame and those who keep this joyful Easter festival that, burning with desire for life with you, we may be found rightly prepared to share in the Feast of Light which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### Lighting of the Paschal Candle

P: May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Be seated*

### **Hymn: "Rejoice, Now, Choir of Angels, Sing!"**

Rejoice, now, choir of angels sing,  
And celebrate God's mysteries,  
Our King has won the victory!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Exult, O earth, with radiance bright,  
Made brilliant by the King of light.  
Who has destroyed the gloom of night.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Be glad, O Church of God, and sing,  
Christ has destroyed death's venomous sting;  
Let now this house of worship ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Wherefore, beloved stand with me,  
And sing God's praise unceasingly,  
All hail to Christ, Who makes us free.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*(stand to sing this stanza)*

Glory to God, The Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
Now and as endless ages run.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*(text: Rev. Jeffrey D. McPike, 1995, based on ancient Easter Vigil chant; tune: Gelobt sei Gott, TLH 208).*

P: Christ is Risen!  
C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

(be seated)

**Hymn: “Jesus Christ is Risen Today! Alleluia!” .....457**  
(Stand for last verse)

Salutation and Collect

**Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:1-4**

**Sequence Hymn for Easter: “Victimae Paschali”**  
Tune to Hymn #459 and words to Hymn #460

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter

**Response: Hymn, “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” .....477**  
(Verse #1)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1-10**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Response: Hymn, “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” .....477**  
(Verse #2)

Nicene Creed – page 191

**Hymn of the Day: “I know that My Redeemer Lives” .....461**  
(Verse 1 – All; Verse 2 – Men; Verse 3 – Women; Verse 4 – ALL; Verse 5 – Pulpit side; Verse 6 – Lectern side; Verse 7 – Women; Verse 8 – ALL)

Sermon

Confession and Absolution (page 184)

Prayers

Offering: The offering plate is available at the back of the church.

Communion Liturgy – page 194

### Service of the Sacrament

Distribution: Communicants will be ushered to the FRONT of the church in groups of 5-7 people. They will space themselves on both sides of the Baptismal font. Please exit the altar area by the outside aisle to the side where you were seated.

**Hymn, “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” .....465**

**Hymn, “Jesus Christ Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” .....458**

**Hymn, “Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior” .....619**

Closing Communion Liturgy – Page 211-212

**Closing Hymn, “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” .....477**  
(Verse #3)

The early part of today’s service comes from an ancient service known as *The Great Vigil of Easter*. This service, which would begin at midnight, began by kindling a new fire for the Paschal Candle, which burns now through the services of the season of Easter to remind us of the presence of the Risen Christ with His disciples. As Jesus removed his physical visible presence when He ascended into heaven, the candle is extinguished on that day and used only for Baptisms and funerals. The hymn following the lighting of the new fire is based on an ancient chant that would celebrate this first fire-lighting. This hymn was written based on that ancient chant by Pastor McPike

The *Sequence Hymn* grew in use in the later first millennium of the Christian Church. It was used as a procession hymn before the Gospel especially for high festival times. Hymn 460, “Christians, to the Paschal Victim” (translation of the Latin, *Victimae Paschali*), was written by

Wipo of Burgundy sometime around the year AD 1050. The presentation of hymns 459 and 460 reflect both the history of the Western Church by the use of Latin (the English is a translation of Latin), and stanzas on the facing page (hymn 459), an English translation of German text from the 12<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (*Christ ist Erstanden* = “Christ is Arisen”). This is a reminder that our specific heritage as Lutheran Christians comes from Germany. While the music may seem a bit subdued, even melancholy compared with some of the other hymns for Easter Sunday, it both reflects the period it was written and allows for a bit of a meditative time between the two readings.

### **Let Us Pray...**

....for homebound members: Karen Bryan, Dave Kunde, Linda Warsaw and Ross Warsaw

....for Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tuscola

....for Kansas District

Offering:

Sunday, March 29 – \$740

Thursday, April 2 – \$

Friday, April 3 - \$

### **IMMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OSMAN The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

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## **Announcements**

**Easter Breakfast** will be served today in the fellowship hall immediately after the worship service. The council members provided the food for the menu of biscuits and gravy, fruit, and coffee cakes. Help us share in the joy of the risen Lord!

**Thank you** to the following members who donated a lily to adorn our altar area: Brenda and Jerry Edwards, Brenda Hendricks, Sara and Dave Kunde, Debbie and John Lammler, Susan and Steve Martin, Melanie and Jerry Niemann, Sue and Jim Van Wakeman, and Connie and Don Warsaw. The lilies were purchased from the Paxton- Buckley – Loda High School Ag Program. The lilies may be taken home after the service today. Thanks for helping to adorn the altar!

**Easter Caroling!** If you are interested in Easter caroling next Sunday after church, please see Alicia today. The possible stops will be Farmer City, Mansfield, Gibson City, and Paxton to bring the good news of our risen Savior to our shut-ins. A small lunch will be provided in the hall for all those going caroling to save time in the traveling schedule.

**Mowing Schedule!** The schedule this year lists the week that the volunteer needs to mow. It is recommended to mow on Thursday through Saturday of that week, so it looks nice for Sunday. If you have misplaced your schedule which was in the March newsletter, there is one on the back bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact trustee John Grussing or Lee Whitehouse. Mowing Schedule:

The week of April 5 – 11- Jim Van Wakeman

The week of April 12 – 18 – Brenda Hendricks

**Next Sunday** there will NOT be adult Bible Class. Pastor McPike will be teaching Confirmation Class in the fellowship hall at that time.

## **Announcements**

**Quilting!** The ladies will be quilting TOMORROW at 12:30 and on Wednesday at 8 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to help tie quilts that go to many areas of the world in needy situations.

**Portals of Prayer Subscriptions!** It is time to renew subscriptions to the Portals of Prayer. If you would like a subscription and have never had one, please contact Brenda Hendricks before April 10th. The members who already have subscriptions will be contacted about renewals. The congregation pays for the subscription.

**Thank you to everyone** who attended and helped with the benefit soup supper held on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, for Karley Bridgwater. Thank you to the members who helped eat the extra food after church last Sunday. The total amount collected for Karley at the time of this printing is \$4543 which will have Thrivent Choice dollars and other church money added to it. The check will be presented to Karley after church in a few weeks.

**The LWML ladies of Peace Lutheran Church** in Thomasboro will be sponsoring a Mother-Daughter Salad Supper on April 19th at 4 PM. It will be held at the church located at 200 West Arnold Street in Thomasboro. The speaker is Heather Wanninger, a local entrepreneur. Bring your mother, daughter, sister, best friend, and join in the good food, fun, and fellowship! If you would like to bring a salad, please do so. Call Peace Lutheran Church at 217-643-3265 or Rev. Michael Stoerger at 217-560-4473 for reservations by April 15th.

### **Those Assisting Us Today**

Organist: Alicia Haggin

Elder: Jerry Niemann

Altar Guild: Debbie Lammle

Acolyte: James Amdor