

REBOOTING EASTER: *Easter Finery*

**March 3, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

OPENING MEDLEY:

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

**Come to Calvary’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Your true health it will restore, So that you need thirst no more.**

**Come with hurts and guilts and meanness, Come, however soiled within;
From the most ingrained uncleanness, From pollution by your sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; You shall walk with God in light.**

**Take the life that lasts forever, Trust this soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when he was glorified.**

“Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness”

**Jesus, your blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in that great day,
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
For by your cross absolved I am From sin and guilt, from fear and shame.**

**Lord, I believe your precious blood, Which at the mercy-seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.**

**Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
You have for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.**

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO REBOOTING EASTER:

P: Buying new clothes at Easter seems to have become an Easter staple—Easter dresses, Easter bonnets—I usually buy a new tie for Easter. I am not sure from where this practice arose, but I find it an interesting one. We dress up for Easter. And...Easter dresses us. Let's read some of these verses together:

C: **You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,**

P: Easter dresses us.

C: **I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,**

P: Easter dresses us

C: **For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**

P: Easter dresses us

C: **When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."**

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Easter dresses us. One step in being dressed by Easter is repentance. Too often we try to dress ourselves in our righteousness and wind up

looking as silly as Adam and Eve dressing themselves in fig leaves. Instead of doing that, covering up our sin, let's confess our sin to God and let Him provide the perfect covering. (*Time of silence for individual confession*). Merciful God,

C: If we are honest with ourselves, we know what Isaiah meant when he said, "All our righteousness is like filthy rags." We try to cleanse ourselves and dress ourselves in something more morally attractive and we fail. We can't do it on our own. So we ask for your mercy and forgiveness. You are our only source of true righteousness and full forgiveness. We ask for this in Jesus' name, Amen.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED:

P: Now listen to the words of Revelation 7. Say them with me responsively:

C: After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

P: And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know."

C: And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

P: In the perfect life and innocent death of Jesus, God has washed your robes white. He has cleansed you completely. He has forgiven you and clothed you in Christ, a perfect covering for your sin. And He commands me to say this to you: All of your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSE: "Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness"

**When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea;
Christ Jesus lived and died for me.**

**Then shall I praise you and adore Your blessed name forevermore,
Who once, for me and all you made, An everlasting ransom paid.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-11

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours. “For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.” I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE: “Robe of Righteousness”



I am cov-ered ov - er with the robe of right-eous-ness that Je - sus gives to me,



gives to me, I am cov-ered ov - er with the pre-cious blood of Je - sus and He lives in me,

lives in me. Oh, what a joy it is to know my Heav-en-ly Fath-er loves me so, He

gives to me my Je - sus. When He looks at me He sees not

what I used to be, but He sees Je - - - - sus.

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE: "It's Not By Might"

It's not by might nor by pow'r, by

by my Spir - it. It's not by might. nor by pow'r,
says the Lord.

“Be Bold, Be Strong”

sung or spoken *(echo)* *sung or spoken* *(echo)* *sung*
Be bold! (Be bold!) Be strong! (Be strong!) For the

sung or spoken *(echo)* *sung or spoken*
Lord, your God, is with — you; Be bold! (Be bold!) Be strong!

(echo) *sung*
(Be strong!) For the Lord, your God, is with — you.

I am not a - fraid, I am not dis - mayed,

'Cause I'm walk - in' in faith and vic - to - ry. Come on and



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HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 27.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

VERSE:

**'Twas grace that clothed me perfectly And grace my sins forgave
I'm dressed in Christ eternally No more to sin a slave**

MESSAGE, Part 1 – Rosy the Rabbit

VERSE:

**'Twas grace that clothed me perfectly And grace my sins forgave
I'm dressed in Christ eternally No more to sin a slave**

MESSAGE, Part 2 – Pastor Bill Hugo

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

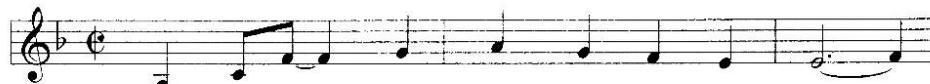
(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

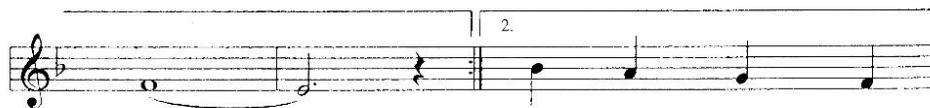
CLOSING SONG: "The Strong Name of Jesus"



1. There is on - ly one Lord that we cling —
 There is on - ly one way that we walk —
 2. Though a - part — from Him we can do noth -
 Cov - ered by — His blood we are made right -



to, There is on - ly one truth that we
 in, There is on - ly one truth that we
 ing, By His Spir - it we can do all
 eous, Lift - ing up — the



claim; — pow - er in one
 things; — name of Christ, our



name. And in the strong name — of Je -
 King!



- sus, — By the blood — of — the Lamb, — We are



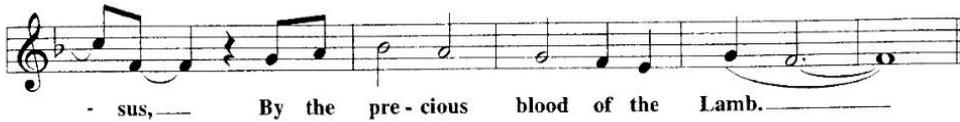
a - ble — to tri - umph, — We are a - ble — to stand. —



— In the pow - er of — His Spir - it, — By the



strength of — His hand, — In the strong name — of Je -



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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Bob Nehring

Ushers: Nelson Team

Power Point: Ben Kretschman

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