

# **Morning Worship**

**Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM**

**May 17, 2026**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*Before we begin our worship this morning, I acknowledge that Bethesda Lutheran Church/Immanuel Lutheran Church stands on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe People, and we honor their elders both past and present. Their presence is imbued in the lands and waters surrounding us. We nurture our relationships with our indigenous neighbors, and the shared responsibilities to their homeland where we all reside today.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:  
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us: Lost Creek, Pike's Creek,  
the Raspberry and Cranberry Rivers, Siskiwit Lake, and the great Lake  
Superior.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: WOV (Blue hymnal) #719 "God Is Here!"**

**Greeting**

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.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen**

**Hymn of Praise WOV (Blue Hymnal) p. 29-30 “Glory to God”**

**Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. **O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

**First Reading: Acts 1:6-14**

*Today’s reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord’s conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>6</sup> When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35**

***Refrain: Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)***

<sup>1</sup> Let God arise, and let God’s ene- | mies be scattered;  
let those who | hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup> **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;  
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the  
pres- | ence of God.**

<sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;  
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

**<sup>4</sup> Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;**

**I Am is that name, rejoice before God! R**

**<sup>5</sup> In your holy habitation, O God,  
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;**

**<sup>6</sup> you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;**

**but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

**<sup>7</sup> O God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,**

**<sup>8</sup> the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

**<sup>9</sup> You sent a bountiful rain, O God;  
you restored your inheritance when it languished.**

**<sup>10</sup> Your people found their home in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor. R**

**<sup>32</sup> Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
sing praises to the Lord.**

**<sup>33</sup> You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;  
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

**<sup>34</sup> Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.**

**<sup>35</sup> How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,  
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God! R**

### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that

you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel acclamation: Celtic Alleluia, 174 (See next page)

MUSIC © OCP Publications, Inc.

## Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*

174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc.

## **The Holy Gospel according to John, the seventeenth chapter.**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: John 17:1-11**

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon – Pastor Connie Monson**

**Hymn of the Day: ELW (Red hymnal) #482 “I Come with Joy”**

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe that God is always present, creating life and working for good. God changes darkness into light, despair into hope and dead ends into new beginnings.**

**We believe in the risen Christ whose new life resurrects us, often through other people and often in surprising ways. We affirm Jesus' teaching that love never fails.**

**We believe in the Spirit, the hidden presence behind every resurrection, the energy of God that calls us by our very own names to venture out with good courage, to restlessly bring hope, joy, beauty and peace. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment (*other transitions may be named*), and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

**Other intercession:** Lord, you know the need for healing, comfort, help or resolution for those we name before you today: Myrna & Richard Northrop, Kermit Delmain, Ed DePerry, Lorayne Reedy, Lois Osterberg, Courtney Byerhof, Bill Bodner, Chuck & Marcia Perry, Colleen Nozal, Kelliann Clapero, Rhiannon Tourdot, Holly Tourdot, Bennett Anderson, Jennifer Schlack, Casey French, Donnie Anderson, Jeanna Morshead-Metelica, Jaycee Juoni, Gary & Janet Johnson, Britni Zagorski, Luke Gulstrand, Jarrett Waite, Sarah Norton, Darlene Ludwikoski, Dawn Peterson, Jay & Pat Frey, Juniper, Chance Brochu, Melinda Letnes, the friends and family of Marty Burkel, and those whose names we hold in our heart. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for our migrant neighbors who, like most of us and our ancestors, came to this country for a better life. You who freed the captives, protect them from harm. Help us guard their rights to representation and due process. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.** (Share a sign of God's peace with one another.)

## **Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

Merciful God,

**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**

**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.**

**Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.**

**In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

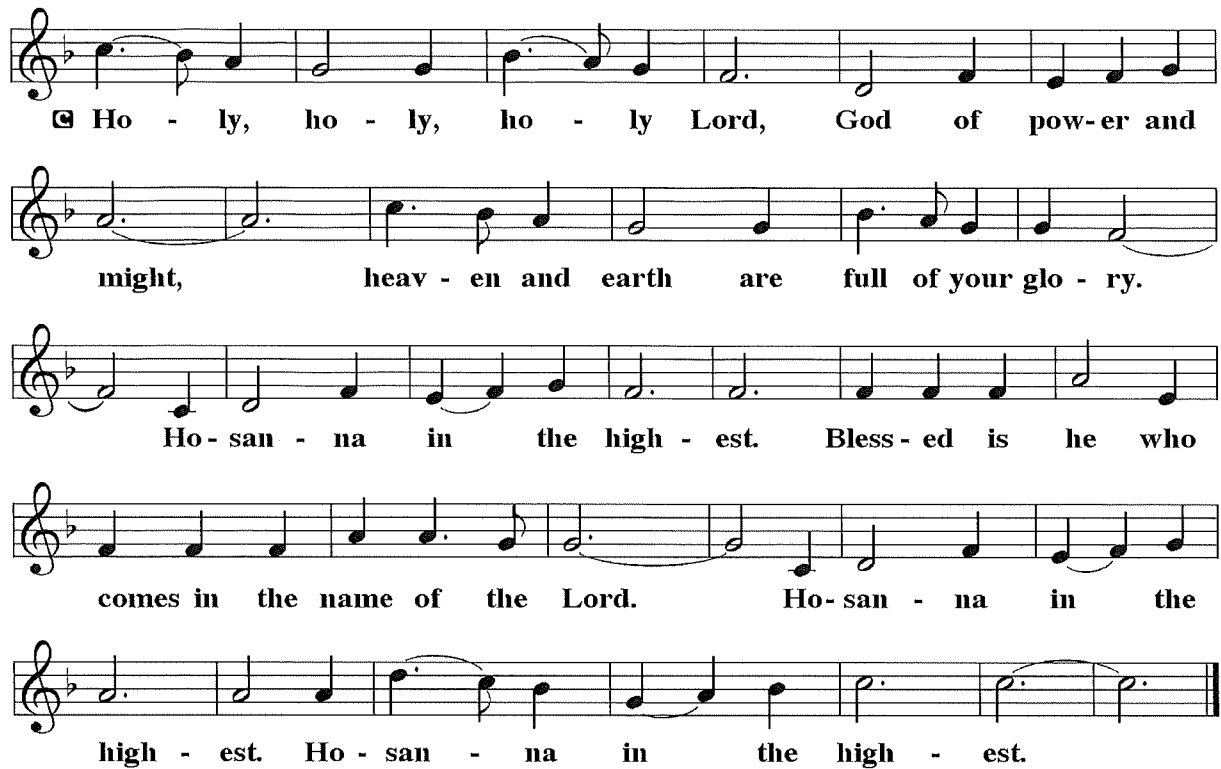
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the  
resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### 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.

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Holy One,

through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,

and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

**Communion Hymn ELW #751**     *“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”*

### **Announcements:**

Sunday: AA, 7 pm, Immanuel

Monday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am; Book Study on Zoom, 1 pm; Paxton Georgeson’s birthday

Tuesday: Brunch Bunch, 10 am, Bethesda; Bible Study, 2 pm, Immanuel and Zoom

Wednesday: South Shore Quilters, 9 am; Council meetings, Immanuel 6 pm, Bethesda 7 pm

Thursday: Juliet, 11:30, Poncho’s

Friday: ROMEO, 8 am, Coffee Shop; Knit Wits, 1 pm, Immanuel

## **Blessing**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: ELW #836** *“Thine the Amen”*

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace; serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Postlude**

### **Reconciling in Christ Statement**

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,  
there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*  
Galatians 3:28

We welcome YOU to Bethesda and Immanuel to participate fully in our congregational life. You who may have experienced exclusion, injustice or racial inequity; You who are young, old, rich, poor; You of all abilities; You from all nations and ethnic backgrounds; You of all sexual orientations, gender identities or gender expression.

We are committed to racial equity, economic equity, gender equity, sexual equity. We are committed to learn, celebrate, advocate and welcome everyone through a series of forums and educational opportunities. May we grow in acceptance and become a voice for inclusion, equity and justice.

No matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.