

# **Morning Worship**

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

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

**May 25, 2025**

**Sixth 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**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✠ the One  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water—  
the little lakes: Perch and Siskiwit and Long Lakes,  
and the big lake Superior,  
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,  
the water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for water.  
**We praise you, O God, for water.**

We praise you, O God, for our water stories—  
a flood that cleansed the earth,  
the sea that drowned the enemy,  
a river that healed leprosy.  
We praise you, O God, for water.  
**We praise you, O God, for water.**

We remember the waters of Jesus—  
baptized in the Jordan River,  
calming the Sea of Galilee,  
drinking from Jacob's Well,  
healing at the pool of Bethesda,  
washing the disciples' feet.  
We praise you, O God, for water.  
**We praise you, O God, for water.**

We praise you, O God, for this font,  
for through this water  
you have birthed us into the family of Christ,  
bathed us in forgiveness,  
and enlivened us in the Spirit.  
We praise you, O God, for baptism.  
**We praise you, O God, for baptism.**

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.  
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.  
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.  
We praise you, O God,  
today, tomorrow, forever.  
Amen, and amen.  
**Amen, and amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: ELW #625 “Come, We That Love the Lord”**

**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 ELW #646 “The Peace of the Lord”**

**Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, 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 16:9-15**

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.*

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 67

***Refrain: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Ps. 67:4)***

- <sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to | us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
- <sup>2</sup> **Let your way be known | upon earth,  
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**
- <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the  
na- | tions on earth. R**
- <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples | praise you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> **The earth has brought | forth its increase;  
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**
- <sup>7</sup> May God | give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. **R**

## Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

*John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.*

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and

there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

MUSIC BY FINNAN O'CARROLL AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER

## Gospel Acclamation

### *Celtic Alleluia*

174



*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 fourteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: John 14:23-29**

*As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.*

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon – Pastor Connie Monson**

**Hymn of the Day: ELW #815 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

**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 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, courage, beauty and peace. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further cooperation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors (*specific partners may be named here*), that we learn and grow in deeper relationship. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless the earth with fresh water, clean air, and rich soil. Nurture growing crops and encourage communities developing sustainable farming practices. Help us to live in balance and harmony with your good creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile nations and communities suffering from violence and conflict. Protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and all who flee their homes seeking safety and security. Make all nations safe for both migrants and residents. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling (*especially*). Hear us, O God.



**Your mercy is great.**

This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn, and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**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, Sharon Johnson, Colleen Nozal, Kelliann Clapero, Rhiannon Tourdot, Holly Tourdot, Bennett Anderson, Jennifer Schlack, Casey French, Donnie Anderson, Jeanna Morshead-Metelica, Cris Pedersen, John & Lynda Nedden-Durst, Dave Judd, Bill Wrieden, and those whose names we hold in our heart. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ (*especially*). Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of 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

Risen One, **you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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:

S 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n 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.

## 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 grace. Receive the gift of new life.

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**

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

### **Communion Hymn ELW #628 “Jerusalem, My Happy Home”**

### **Announcements:**

Sunday	AA 7 pm at Immanuel; Richard Northrop’s birthday
Monday	Memorial Day; Charlotte Calhoun’s birthday
Tuesday	Brunch Bunch 10 am at Bethesda; Bible Study at Immanuel and on Zoom, 2 pm; Mark Ludeking’s birthday
Wednesday	South Shore Quilters 9 am; Midday Prayer 12 pm at Bayfield Presbyterian; Bob Eicher’s birthday; Judy Hafemann’s birthday
Thursday	Immanuel Painters 10 am
Friday	ROMEO 8:30 am; Knit Wits 1 pm; Steve Cox’s birthday

## **Blessing**

The triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: ELW #866** *“We Are Marching in the Light”*

## **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **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.