

Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM

February 2, 2025

4th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,
**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,**

**while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.**

Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
✠ forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #671 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

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.

Kyrie ELW #157

Hymn of Praise ELW #167 "Now the Feast and Celebration"

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. **Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.”

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 71:1-6

Refrain: From my mother's womb you have been my strength. (Ps. 71:6)

¹ In you, O Lord, have I | taken refuge;
let me never be | put to shame.

² **In your righteousness, deliver me and | set me free;
incline your ear to | me and save me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to | keep me safe;
you are my crag | and my stronghold.

⁴ **Deliver me, my God, from the hand | of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and | the oppressor. R**

⁵ For you are my hope, | O Lord God,
my confidence since | I was young.

⁶ **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my
mother's womb you have | been my strength;
my praise shall be al- | ways of you. R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an

end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW #172 *“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” See next page*

SERVICE MUSIC

172

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system starts with a G chord and includes the lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-'. The second system includes the lyrics '- le - lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le -'. The third system includes the lyrics 'lu - jah. Hal-le - lu - jah. Hal-le - lu - jah.' and ends with a G chord. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: G, D7, G, C, Am, D, G, B7, Em, Am, G/D, D, G.

Music: Caribbean (traditional); arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

²¹ Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Connie Monson (At Immanuel – read by Al Reedy)

Hymn of the Day: ELW #644 "*Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue*"

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Creator, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all living things, and whose will is directed to every good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Child of God and Child of humanity, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, who holds us and guides us in the truth of Christ, and in whom we find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith can manifest itself in the service of love as set forth by the example of Jesus, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

Prayers of Intercession

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness (*especially*). Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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, Chick Anderson, Kelli Ann Clapero, Rhiannon Tourdot, Holly Tourdot, Bennett Anderson, Jennifer Schlack, John Frederick, Casey French, Mary Thomas, Don Hyde, Valerie Brockmann, Donnie Anderson, Muriel Erickson, and Marialyce Wackett. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. **God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

**Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

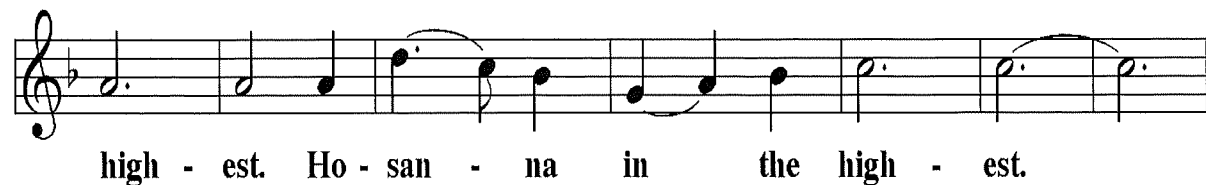
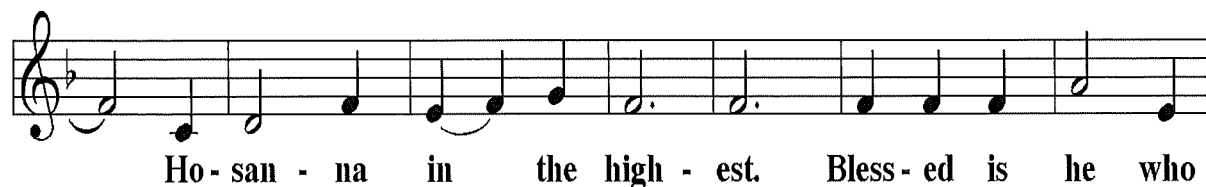
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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 all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

...



For Immanuel Only:

Gathered at the Lord's table, our sister congregation Bethesda remembered with thanksgiving that "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."

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.

Communion Hymn ELW #486 “God Extends an Invitation”

Announcements:

Sunday	Lois Osterberg’s birthday; Dave Judd’s birthday
Monday	South Shore Quilters 9 am; Book Study on Zoom 1 pm
Tuesday	Brunch Bunch 10 am at Bethesda; Bible Study Immanuel and Zoom 1 pm; Cribbage 1 pm at Bethesda; Gary Benzschawel’s birthday
Wednesday	South Shore Quilters 9 am; Midday Prayer 12 pm at Bayfield Presbyterian; RIC 6 pm at Bethesda; Chick Anderson’s birthday
Thursday	Immanuel Painters 10 am
Friday	ROMEO 8 am; Knit Wits 1 pm
Saturday	Eunice Matthews’s birthday

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.
Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW #543 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

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.