

Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church 8:30
Immanuel Lutheran Church 11:00

May 8, 2022
4th Sunday of Easter

Before we begin our worship, I would like to acknowledge that Bethesda Lutheran Church/Immanuel Lutheran Church sit 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE/GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Creator, we thank you for all you are and for all you bring us along our walk through your creation. In you all creation is related. You place yourself in the Sacred Circle. You show us how to live with generosity and compassion that are rooted in justice. Give us the will, wisdom and strength to live in these ways courageously. **Amen.**

(The Disciples Prayer Book, The Indigenous Theological Training Institute)

CONFESSION

O Great Spirit, God of every people and every tribe, we come to you as your many children, to ask for your forgiveness and guidance. Forgive us for the colonialism that stains our past, the ignorance that allowed us to think that we could claim another's home for our own.

Heal us of this history.

Remind us that none of us were discovered since none of us were lost, but that we are all gathered within the sacred circle of your community.

Guide us through your wisdom to restore the truth of our heritage. Help us to confront the racism that divides us as we confess the pain it has caused to the human family.

ASSURANCE

God, our creator, restores the wrongs we cause others and ourselves, and sets us free to live for each other. Accept this freedom by restlessly using it to live in peace. God will accompany you and strengthen you in goodness. Amen.

PRAAYER TO THE FOUR DIRECTIONS

Creator, the strength of the people, we honor you. Listen to the thoughts of your people. Together let us respect the truth of your spirit and care for your Creations to the east, to the south, to the west and to the north. Together let us live by the ways you have entrusted to us within the circle of life. Come Great Spirit as all are gathered in your name.

We face East: To your symbol color gold, the place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning, there the Seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honor life around them, all who honor life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again. And we pray, **Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

We turn to the South: To your symbol color red, in the South, the place of growing there is wisdom in the earth, both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the earth gives up her lifeblood so her children's hearts may beat. We give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet. And we pray, **Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

We turn to the West: To your symbol color black, the place of seeing, there is born a vision of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed the

Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace. And we pray, **Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

We turn to the North: To your symbol color white, we look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and rain, to Jesus who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the people, and the Holy Spirit who comes to inspire us. And we pray, **Come Holy Creator's Spirit, Come**

GATHERING SONG: #771 "God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God: Gather all people into the abundance you give to the world. Defend us with your justice. Enliven us with your restless peace, that we may know and spread the life we share with all creation. We pray as we live, in your name, Amen,

THE WORD

First Reading: Psalm 23 (*Read Responsively*)

Response after the reading: The word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139-13-14

For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are thy works!

The Holy Gospel of John 10:11-18

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are

not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father.

Response after the announcement: **Glory to you O Lord.**

Response after the reading: **Praise to you O Christ.**

Message *We welcome Elder Dee Sweet*

HYMN OF THE DAY #793 “Be Thou My Vision”

CREED STATEMENT

We believe in Creator, Father-Mother Spirit, who called the world and all that is in it, into being, who spoke the creative-forming word, and all came forth who created women and men and set them free to live in love, in obedience to the will of supreme love and in community with all.

We believe in Creator, Son and Brother, who, because of love beyond our understanding, love for creation, entered the world to share our humanity, to rejoice and to despair; to set before us the paths of life and death, and walk them with us; to be rejected and die, but finally to conquer death and bind the world to himself for all time.

We believe in Creator, In-Dwelling Spirit, who invites us into community, that we may through faith and that community of oneness, experience uplifting and sustaining grace; that we may fulfill our human responsibility to reach out to our neighbor, whoever that may be; that we may rejoice in the constant nature of creation and the wondrous joy of life itself.

We believe in Creator, whose word teaches us that all things grow together, the Circle of Life; that the paths of life and death, good and evil, too often come together, that choices are not clearly defined; but that we confidently and responsibly tread the path we choose and only the true One can be our judge. We believe in Creator, who is present and working in this world through all creation. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
Share a sign of God's peace with one another.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you for our present abundance and for the many blessings you have bestowed upon this community. We thank you for our faith, for our knowledge of you, and for the assurance of your love. May all these gifts be a blessing to those in need. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Spirit. Earth-Maker, Pain-Bearer, Life-Giver, Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Mother and Father of us all, Loving God in whom is heaven:
Your sacred name echoes through the universe.
May all peoples of the world follow the way of your justice.
Your will be done by all created beings.

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.

Feed us with the bread we need for today.

In the wounds we inflict and absorb from one another, forgive us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

For you reign, in the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

(From the Indigenous Maori People of New Zealand)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Spirit sharpens your ears to hear its guiding voice:

Where you are weak, it gives you wisdom and strength.

Where you are strong the Spirit encourages you.

The Spirit gives you ways to live courageously for your brothers and sisters, for all creation, rather than against them. Amen.

SENDING SONG: #879 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

DISMISSAL

Go now into the four Sacred Directions, the east, south, west, and north.

Go into your communities, into unknown lands and places.

Go to those who welcome you and those who reject you.

Go and share the Good News with all who will hear.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers for: Myrna Northrop, Eve Erickson, Kermit & Judy DelMain, Wally & Colleen Nozal, Bill Compton, Marty Burkel, Janet Hunt, Mary & Jerry Phillips, Max Paap, Julie Phillips, John Hauser, Casey French, John Meierotto, Kerissa Morrin, Ed Deperry.