

Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM

May 11, 2025

Fifth 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

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.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.
Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.
Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #453 *"Baptized and Set Free"*

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.

A Mother's Day Litany (adapted from a prayer by Sr Beth Murphy,
OP)

For Mothers. For all of them. **For the ones called Mother, or Mom,
Ma, Mommy, Mama, or Uma. For the ones not named,
remembered, or called anything.**

For moms alive, and for those resting in peace. **For moms we can visit
today, and those we can't.**

For moms who've had the family they always wanted, raised children in economic security, sent them to great schools, seen them succeed. **And for those who didn't; who couldn't.**

For cookie-baking moms: The economically secure ones **and the ones who work three jobs to keep their kids, and grandkids, fed and housed and *still* bake cookies.**

For career moms **who teach their children responsibility, interdependence, and the satisfaction of sharing their gifts and talents with the world.**

For neighborhood moms who attract hordes of little ones with their kindness, spontaneity, and availability. **For moms who are the safe place for kids abandoned, neglected, and afraid. For moms who raise children who do the same.**

For moms who mourn: infertility, still births, miscarriages, abortions; the deaths of infants. **For those who live in dread of losing children to violence, addiction, mental illness, war. And for those who have.**

For would-be moms who long to give birth and cannot. **For moms who adopt and foster; for moms who relinquish children to the loving care of others. For moms raising children with special needs.**

For moms who keep it together—**and those who don't.**

For people of any gender whose gentleness and wisdom imparts motherly love, too: **dads and uncles, siblings and friends.**

For the moms who shield their children from terrors. For refugee moms who flee with their children from war, danger, and abuse. **For moms who watch their children die of starvation. For moms who sell their bodies so their children don't starve.**

For moms who have strained relationships with their children. **For children of any age whose mothers have not been available in the way they needed.**

For those who are childless, but are there for somebody else's kids. **For anyone who has mothered others toward faithful lives, self-respect, and the desire to live lives of Gospel justice.**

For moms securely seated on the pedestal of Social Norm—and those who fell off long ago.

For the teen moms. For moms raising kids with their wives. **For *their* moms who support and love them.**

For moms who organize: closets, vacations, and household budgets; neighbors, protests, unions, and shelter schedules. **For the ones who put their bodies between children and violence, creating safe passage to school through gang-ridden streets.**

For scientist and ecologist moms **who know the future of all kids depends urgently on our care and respect for Mother Earth.**

For moms who share their strong faith and deep values. **And for moms who struggle and doubt.**

In gratitude for and in awe of all moms everywhere, who birth, love, nurture, challenge, heal, relinquish, mourn, brave, live, and die, pointing the way forward on a path of courage, hope, and generative love for the life of the world. Amen.

Hymn of Praise ELW #744 “*Lord, Be Glorified*”

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. **O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

Psalm: Psalm 23

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹ The Lord | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³ You restore my | soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall | fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort
me. R**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my
life,**

and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever. R

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

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

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia

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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 tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What

my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

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

Sermon – Pastor Connie Monson

Hymn of the Day: ELW #789 *“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

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.

You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. 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, the friends and family of Donnie Sullivan, Sarah Norton, Leanne Homa, Cris Pedersen, and those whose names we hold in our heart. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints (*especially*), we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. 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.

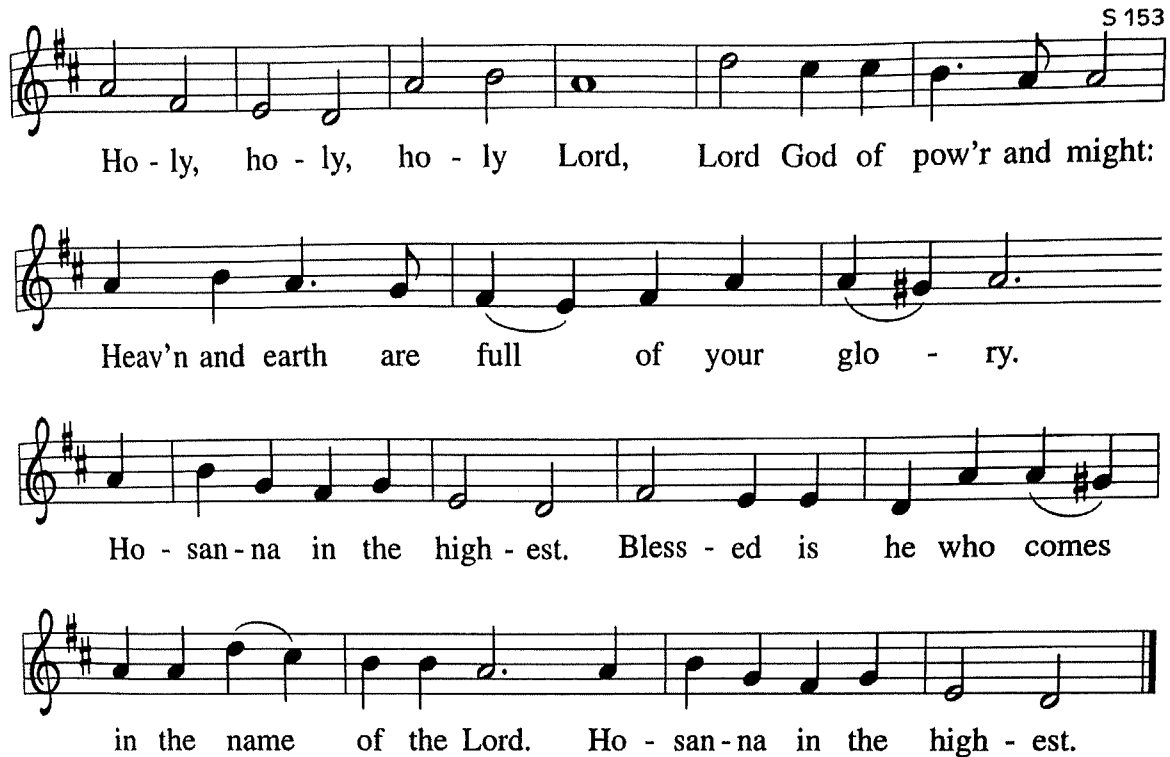
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

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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 #843 *“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”*

Announcements:

Sunday	AA 7 pm at Immanuel
Monday	South Shore Quilters 9 am; Book Study on Zoom 1 pm; Mattie Knauff's birthday; Ron Nylander's birthday
Tuesday	Brunch Bunch 10 am at Bethesda; Bible Study at Immanuel and on Zoom, 1 pm

Wednesday South Shore Quilters 9 am; Gather 9:30 am, Bethesda;
Midday Prayer 12 pm at Bayfield Presbyterian
Thursday Immanuel Painters 10 am
Friday ROMEO 8:30 am; Knit Wits 1 pm; Pat Purves'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 #742 *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

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.