

Morning Worship

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

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Before we begin our worship this morning, I acknowledge that Bethesda Lutheran Church/Immanuel Lutheran Church sits 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

At Immanuel: Invocation (special music)

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father
and of the †Son
and of the Holy Spirit,
one God, Mother of us all. **Amen.**

We gather at this font, O God,
creator of oceans and rivers, rain and snow.
We praise you for Lost Creek Bog, Mawikwe Bay, Big Bay Lagoon,
and for the water you provide us each day.

We praise your Spirit, hovering over this font.

We bless you for this cleansing water of rebirth,
this flood of endless mercy,
and for all the baptized around this blue planet.

We ask you, almighty Provider,
to give us the water we need,
and we praise you for the sustenance you grant at this font.
By the water of our baptism empower us
to pour out ourselves for others
and to safeguard the waters of your earth.

To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Sea of holiness, Spring of salvation, Cloud of mystery,
be all praise and thanksgiving,
now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #423 *“Shall We Gather at the River”*

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 #379 *“Now the Green Blade Rises”*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. **O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 8:26-40

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31; refrain, Ps. 22:27

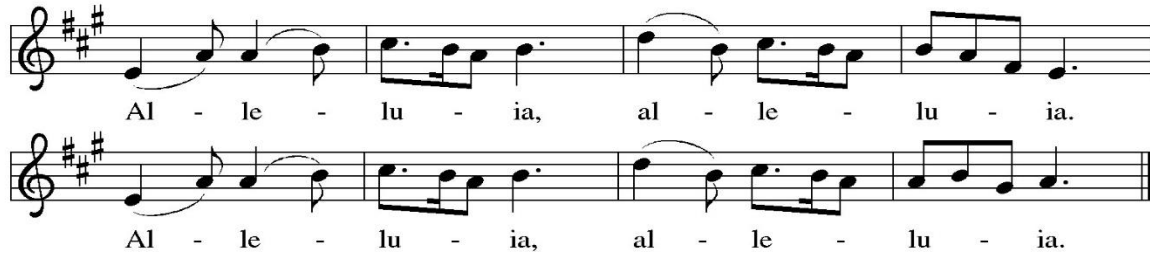
SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*



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
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GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Connie Monson

Hymn of the Day: ELW #453 “*Baptized and Set Free*”

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 rising resurrects us, sometimes 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 ceaselessly share hope, courage, beauty, and peace, to every corner of the cosmos. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Intercessions, each followed by: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Other intercession: You know the need for healing, comfort, help or resolution for those we name before you today: Myrna & Richard Northrop, Kermit & Judy DelMain, Marty Burkel, Casey French, Kerissa Morrin, Ed DePerry, Lorayne Reedy, Lois Osterberg, Bill Peterson, Courtney Byerhof, Bill Bodner, Chuck & Marcia Perry, Sharon Johnson, Rhiannon Tourdot, Judy, Holly Tourdot, Judy Faragher, Colleen Nozal, Chick Anderson, Kelli Ann Clapero, Bennett Anderson, Konnie LeMay, Vicki Gordon, Michael Babineau, Jennifer Schlack, Kit Bottem, Karen Novachek, Dick Florence, Joan Nilles, the family of Austin French, and the faculty, staff, students of Northland College. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **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 call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here

be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

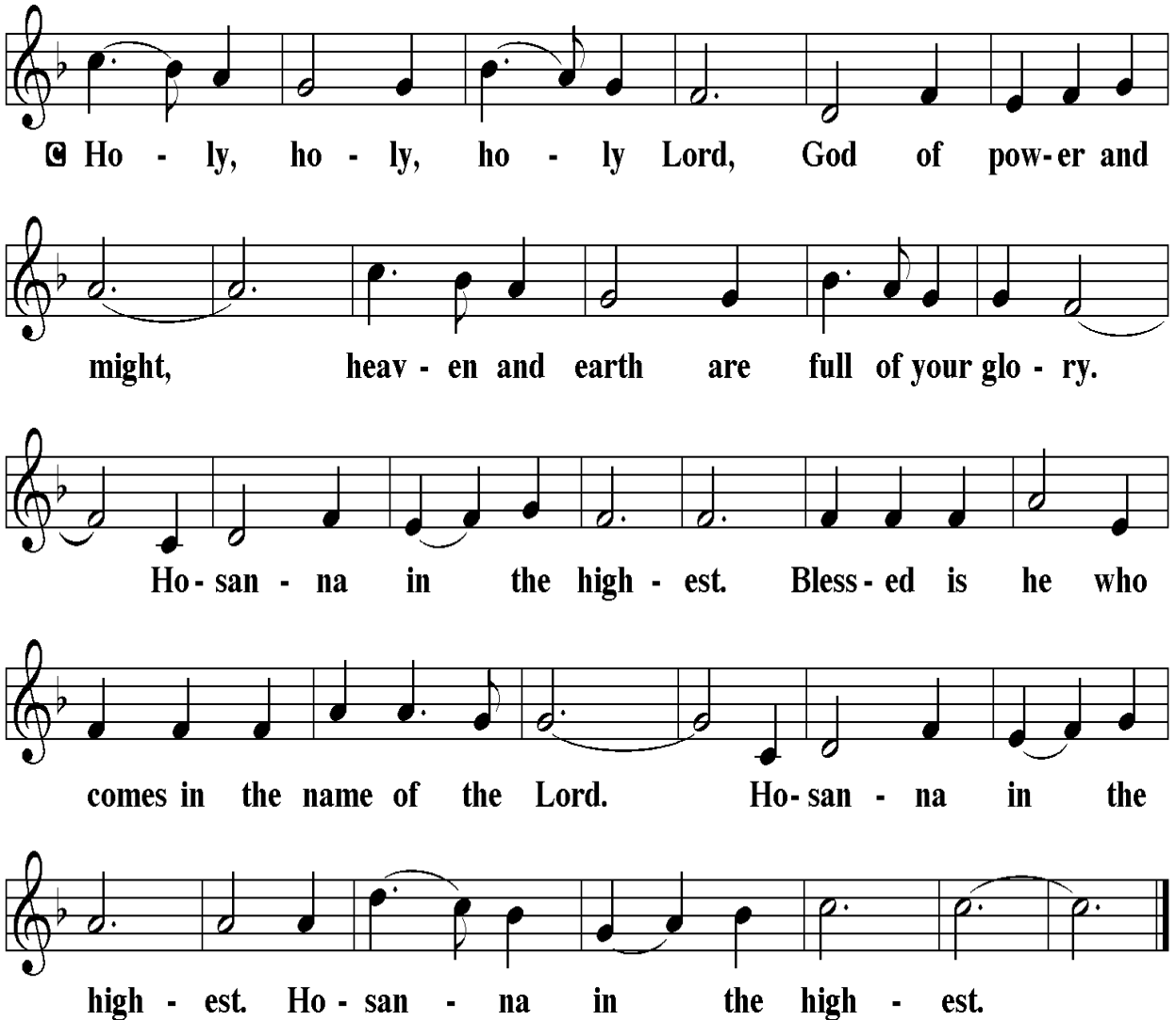
Lift up your hearts.

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 bought 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

The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

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

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn ELW #460 "Now the Silence"

Announcements:

Sunday	AA at Immanuel 7:00
Monday	Immanuel Quilters 9:00; Book Study 1:00
Tuesday	Brunch Bunch 10:00
Wednesday	South Shore Quilters 9:00; BPC Book Study 1:00
Thursday	Water Color Painters at Immanuel 10:00

Friday

ROMEO 8:00; Knit Wits 1:00

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW #536 *“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the peace of God with the world!

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.