

**Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Sunday, April 29, 2018 9:00am  
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Prelude “Thine the Amen” Powell  
“When Morning Guilds the Skies” Hopson  
“When Morning Guilds the Skies” Innes**

**Announcements**

**Temple Talk Sally Scinto-Reinertson**

**P:** Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**C: Amen**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Call to Worship Based on John 15:1-8**

**P:** We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**C: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

**P:** The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**C: We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

**P:** If we abide in Christ, then Christ’s words will abide in us.

**C: We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

**P:** We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:  
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

**C: May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.**

**Opening Hymn “When Morning Guilds the Skies” #853**

**Prayer of the Day**

**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.**

**First Reading Acts 8:26-40 (Bible in pew) pg. 892**

*Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to*

*proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God**

**A.M.: Psalm 22:25-31**

A.M.: Let us read the Psalm responsively.

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,**

**who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.  
<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**  
**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**  
<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**A.M.:** Let us pray

Eternal God, your Son cried out in anguish from the cross, and you delivered him. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you. By his death and resurrection bring life where there is death: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of oppression, that all people may rejoice in your saving deeds through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21**

*(Bible in pew) pg. 991*

*We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.*

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

<sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

<sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God**

## Children Sermon

**Gospel Acclamation “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” #172**

### **A.M.: Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.

**Holy Gospel John 15:1-8** (Bible in pew) pg. 878

The holy gospel according to John.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

<sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

<sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ. Amen.**

**Pulpit Hymn “Thine the Amen” #826**

**Sermon Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras**

**Hymn of the Day “Now the Green Blade Rises” #379**

**The Nicene Creed Back of Hymnal**

**A.M.:** Let us confess our faith using the words of The Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord,  
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten,  
not made, of one Being  
with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He had spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**A.M.: Prayers of Intercession**

A.M.: Let us pray

After each petition, please respond with **“Have mercy, O God”**.

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

For ministries that nurture faith formation. For missionaries and Bible study leaders. For those who are seeking, questioning, or curious. For seminarians, campus ministers, and the newly baptized, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the beauty and health of the earth. For vineyards and orchards, groves and plains. For rain forests and arctic tundra. For volcanoes and mountains, hills and valleys. For oceans deep and rivers wide, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For infertile married couples: that our Heavenly Father may comfort their hearts and help them discern how to share their spousal love in their community, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For homeless youth and rejected children. For isolated grandparents and lonely nursing home residents. For the shamed, the slighted, and the disregarded members of our communities. For all the sick *especially* Thelma, Neil, Joella Corado, Jerrilynn, Betty Jane, Justin and Ashley, Esther, Barb, Dolores, Pam, Kathrine Sylvia, Norm, April, Breanna, Meredith, LuAnn, Connor, Janci, and Lucy, Ted and Kara Sanders, and Youa Xiong & Shelby Brod, and Jezel Qumsia, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all who live with post-traumatic stress disorder and postpartum depression. For all who struggle with eating disorders and anorexia. For all who suffer in silence and all who suffer alone, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

We lift up before you our first communion candidates, Emily and Grace Kallio and Baylan Hulstrom as they are getting ready to receive their first communion on May 13. Let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for all the mystics and theologians who live eternally with you. For those we mourn and those we would rather forget. For the kingdom on earth to be as it is in heaven, let us pray by singing “Be Not Afraid”

**“Be Not Afraid”** (*sing twice*)

**#388**

Be Not Afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be Not Afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

**Pastor:** We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Sharing of Peace**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always

**C:** and also with you.

**Offering**            **“Now the Green Blade Rises” Cherwien**

**Offertory**           **“Children of the Heavenly Father” #781 vss. 3-4**

### **Offering Prayer**

A.M.: Let us pray together in union

**Gracious God, through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, you have given immeasurable grace to us. May our offerings reflect the grace we have received, and symbolize lives committed to the service of our risen Lord that we may be your risen body in the world. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

**P:** May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.  
Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn**    **“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” #384**

1     That Easter day with joy was bright;  
      the sun shone out with fairer light,  
      when, to their longing eyes restored,  
      the apostles saw their risen Lord! Alleluia!

2     O Jesus, king of gentleness,  
      with constant love our hearts possess;  
      to you our lips will ever raise  
      the tribute of our grateful praise. Alleluia!

3     O Christ, you are the Lord of all  
      in this our Easter festival,  
      for you will be our strength and shield  
      from ev'ry weapon death can wield. Alleluia!

4 All praise, O risen Lord, we give  
to you, once dead, but now alive!  
To God the Father equal praise,  
and God the Holy Ghost, we raise! Alleluia!

*Text: Latin hymn, 4th or 5th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.*

### **Dismissal**

A.M.: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A.M.: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**I will and I ask God to help me.**

### **Postlude “He’s Risen, He’s Risen” Blersch**

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**Prayer Concerns:** Thelma Bursik, Neil Coakley, Joella Corado (Maggie Westaby’s cousin), Jerrilynn Duxbury, Betty Jane Kettunen, Justin & Ashley Nickolai, Esther Osterby, Barb Peterson, Lucy Peterson, Dolores Riege, Pam (Rodney Riese’s wife), Dina Sarras, Kathrine Sylvia Sarras, Norm Winterhoff, April Winters (Jamie Rice-Heckendorf’s niece), Breanna Kurth, Meredith Westaby, Connor Rice (Jamie Rice-Heckendorf’s cousin), Ted and Kara Sanders, and Youa Xiong & Shelby Brod (Serenity Hulstrom’s Friends), and Jezel Qumsia. (Contact ILC Office to update.)

**A set of keys were lost last Sunday. If found, please turn them into ILC office.**

**Join us in fellowship hall** following worship service today. Joan Johanson, who works with our synod office and is trained to work with the systems of the church, will spend some time in conversation to explore new ways of communicating with one another.

**Care package** for Ashley Nickolai will be mailed on Monday, April 30. Please sign the card in the Narthex.

**ILC potluck** will be held on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 5:30pm. Signup sheets for the food and before/after potluck helpers will be in the Narthex. After the potluck, Jean DeVoll-Donaldson, Bishop’s Associate for Evangelical Mission will discuss the results of the vitality survey taken back in January.



**Noisy Offering** will be collected next Sunday, May 6. Social Concerns uses the money to help feed the needy in our area. If you are willing to help with the next Community Dinner served by ILC, contact Marge Warner.

**First Communion Candidates** will be received on May 13 during worship service. We will have communion on May 6 and 13.

**A movie for children** will be on May 6 starting at 11am. Pizza, snacks and drinks will be provided. See Maggie Westaby with any questions.

**Synod Assembly 2018 Service Project** will be “Blast Off for Books”. Purchase a book(s) for a child in need by helping the National Youth Gathering collect 100,000 books for students pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Houston. All books must be new or gently used. The book list and all information needed are in the Gathering Room. If you bring books, you may drop them off in the box by May 13<sup>th</sup>. Please complete the little form with your information and drop in the slotted box. A tally of purchases or cash/check will be taken to the synod meeting May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Windows into Palestine Festival, Minneapolis**, May 16-19. This festival celebrates the art, culture, & people of Palestine. This collaboration between Bright Stars of Bethlehem, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lord of Life Lutheran Church & Christmas Lutheran Church of Bethlehem will include art exhibits, documentary film screening, cooking demonstrations and more! Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb will be presenting at several of the events. Early Bird discount by May 1 for celebration dinner Saturday evening. All details on bulletin board.

**Our Sister Church** is the Lobatla Parish. Address is: c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. G.M. Nkale, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa. Email for Pastor: nkalesto@gmail.com

**Attendance For** 4/22/18 74

**Coffee fellowship today** is hosted by Jerry and Judy Nickolai.

## SERVING US TODAY

<b>Worship Leader</b>	Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Sally Scinto-Reinertson
<b>Ministers</b>	All Members of Immanuel
<b>Organist</b>	Adele Bluhm
<b>Head Usher</b>	Mike Schwede
<b>Reader</b>	Bill Cerny
<b>Greeters</b>	Jamie Rice-Heckendorf & Reuben Roehl
<b>Nursery</b>	Patti Busche
<b>Video Recorder</b>	Jerry Nickolai
<b>Presentation Manager</b>	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joanne Diestelhorst & Lisa Steltenpohl
<b>Contact Person</b>	Mary Munson

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Apr. 29</b>	9:00a	Worship Service
		10:15a	Coffee Fellowship / Joan Johanson
		10:15a	Sunday School
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Apr. 30</b>		-----
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>May 01</b>	5:30p	Handbell Choir Practice
		5:30p	Potluck in Fellowship Hall
			Vitality Survey Results to follow
		5:45p	TV Worship CH 980
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>May 02</b>		-----
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>May 03</b>	7:30a	Men's Discussion Group
		9:00a	Quilters
		9:15a	TV Worship CH 980
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>May 04</b>		Church Office Closed
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>May 05</b>		-----
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>May 06</b>	9:00a	Communion Worship Service, Noisy Offering
		10:15a	Coffee Fellowship
		11:00a	Kid's Movie