

**EMANUEL Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Congregation Established 1726 – Our 295<sup>th</sup> Year of Gospel Ministry  
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*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
*May 2 2021*

PRELUDE

Lora Sweeney

(\* indicates standing - 'LBW' refers to the Green Hymnal Book & "WOV" refers to the Blue Hymnal Book)

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

LBW Pg. 77

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*)

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of \_\_\_  
 Fair are the mead - - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in \_\_\_  
 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the \_\_\_  
 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of \_\_\_

God and \_\_\_ Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love \_\_\_ thee, Tru - ly I'd  
 flow'rs of \_\_\_ bloom - ing spring: Je sus is fair - er, Je sus is  
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - ter Je - sus shines  
 God and \_\_\_ Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -

serve thee Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 pur - er, He makes our sor - rowing spi - rit sing.  
 pur - er, Than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er more be Thine!

Text: Gesangbuch, Munster 1677; trans Joseph Seiss, 1823-1904, Tune: Silesian folk tune, 1842, Sola Online Worship eResources

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

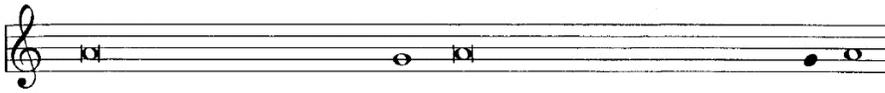
\*The Kyrie

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

B Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.

B Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**B** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



**B** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



**B** A - men

**\*Hymn of Praise**

**“This is the Feast”**

**LBW pg. 80**



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



**B** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**LBW Pg. 82**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray (*brief prayerful pause*)

O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea

**Psalm 150** (*Sung responsively*)

- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise God in his | holy temple;\*  
praise him in the firmament | of his power.
- <sup>2</sup>**Praise him for his | mighty acts;\***  
**praise him for his ex- | cellent greatness.**
- <sup>3</sup>Praise him with the blast | of the ram's horn;\*  
praise him with | lyre and harp.
- <sup>4</sup>**Praise him with tim- | brel and dance;\***  
**praise him with | strings and pipe.**
- <sup>5</sup>Praise him with re- | sounding cymbals;\*  
praise him with loud | clanging cymbals.
- <sup>6</sup>**Let everything | that has breath\***  
**praise the Lord. | Hallelujah!**

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

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

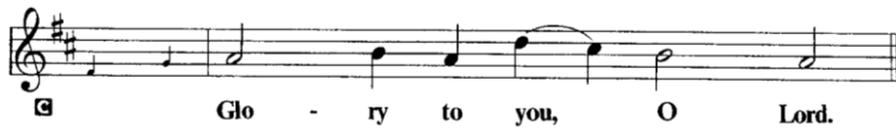
**\*Gospel Acclamation**

**LBW pg. 83**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

\*Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8



{Jesus said,} “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”



SERMON

Pastor Mark

HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

LBW #315.

Love di - vine, — all loves ex - cel - ing, Joy of heav'n to  
 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing spir - it In - to ev - 'ry  
 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us, all thy  
 Fin - ish then — thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less  
 earth — come down! Fix in us — thy hum - ble dwell - ing,  
 trou - bled breast; Let us all — in thee in - her - it  
 life — re - ceive; Sud - den - ly — re - turn and nev - er,  
 let — us be; Let us see — thy great sal - va - tion  
 All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com -  
 Let us find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way — the love of  
 Nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways  
 Per - fect - ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to  
 pas - sion, Pure un - bound - ed love thou art; Vis - it us — with  
 sin - ning; Al - pha and — O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
 bless - ing, Serve thee as — thy hosts a bove, Pray, and praise thee  
 glo - ry, Till in heav'n we take our place, Till — we cast our  
 thy — sal va - — tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its — be - gin - — ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - — ing, Glo - ry in — thy pre - cious love.  
 crowns be - fore — thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887, Sola Online Worship eResource

## \*THE NICENE CREED

P: Let us confess our faith, using the Words of the Nicene Creed:

C: **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 whom 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 man.  
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 has 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.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their need.

*(Prayerful silence)*

L: Holy God, through your son, Jesus, we abide in you. Help us to bear fruit as we seek to serve our neighbor. Grant us courage and strength so when we are pruned by the vinedresser, we not only glorify your Son, but bear even more fruit. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, who has made it possible for us to be together with you. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Eternal Lord, you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end of all that exists. Bring joy to families who are welcoming babies into their lives, so they might cherish every moment together. Be present with couples in the process of adopting children, those women making an adoption plan, that they too would know the joys of family. Bring comfort to those who grieve the loss of loved ones, especially those whose children have died or have been unable to have children, assuring them of the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the beauty of your creation: for budding trees and blooming flowers, for a renewal of life on this planet. May we be good stewards of all the resources you have given, especially water, land, and food. May our care for the world you created be a sign of our devotion to you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord of life, you are the source of all healing and rest. Grant your healing mercy to be with all those who struggle with pain or suffering. Surround them with your comfort. Lord, bring hope to the hopeless and provide for the needs of your people each day. We especially for **Sarah, Leona, Elizabeth, George, Elaine, Mona, Edna, Betty, Pauline, Rick, George, Harold, Nancy, Rex, Kevin, Julie, Wayne, Annabelle, Lucy, Cindy, Mary Jane, the Krueger family and the Franzen family.** Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for the North American Lutheran Church, mission regions and districts, Bishop Selbo, all deans, pastors and congregations that we may be true to the core values of being Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded and Congregationally-Focused. Be present with those traveling this week for the Pastor's Conference, that this would be a time of conversation and renewal for all attending. Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Hear the prayers of your people that we speak now silently or aloud. (*silence for prayers of the people*)  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, merciful Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**OFFERING:** The offering plates are in the last pew on each side of the sanctuary. Those who wish to mail their offering may do so to:

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

**P. O. Box 363**

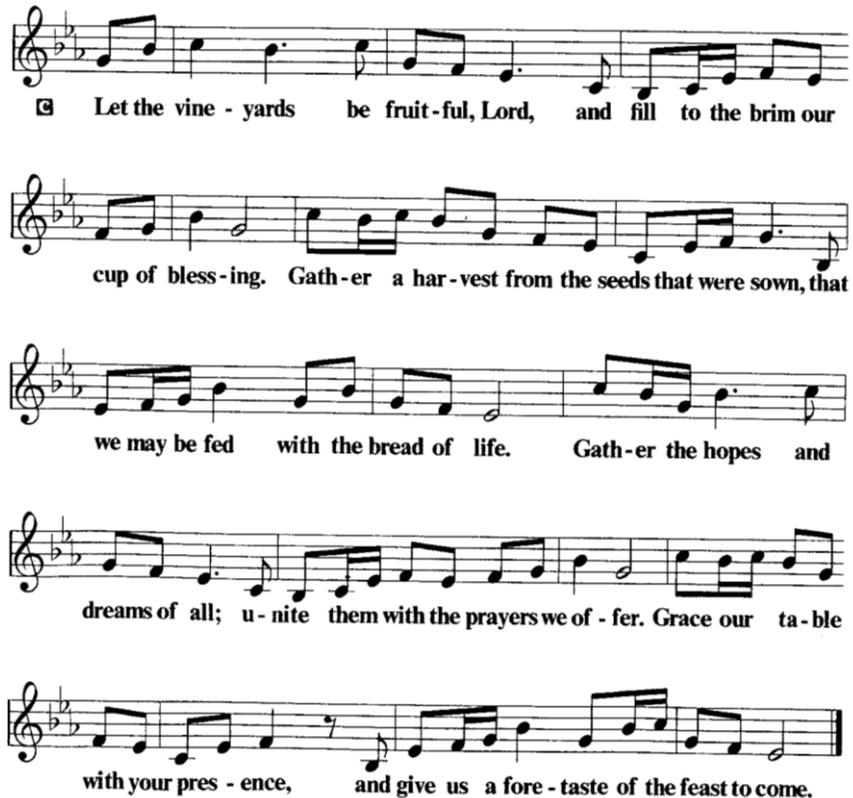
**Elmer, NJ 08318**

(Online giving is now available through our website, <https://www.emanuelelmer.church> and clicking on the Give Now  tab.)

**\*OFFERTORY**

**"Let the Vineyards"**

**LBW pg.86**



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and  
dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**LBW Pg.87**

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

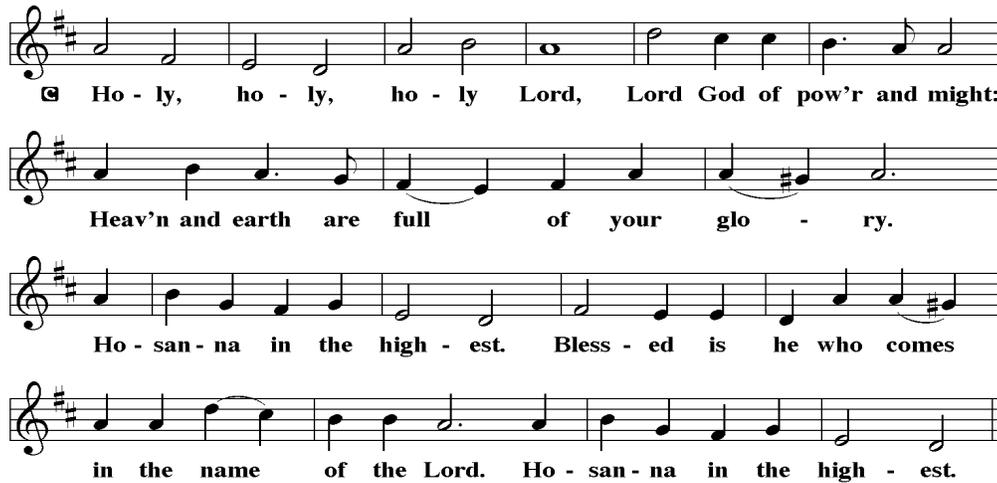
P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:



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.

**\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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." For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes.

**C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P. Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P. Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P. Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty  
of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is  
yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW Pg. 91

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

**\*LAMB OF GOD**

LBW Pg. 92

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

*(Be seated and await the Ushers invitation to Holy Communion)*

**HOLY COMMUNION**

Holy Communion is under both forms – bread and wine or grape juice. At the direction of the usher, come to the Altar rail. You will receive an empty cup for the wine. If you wish grape juice, do not take a cup. After the person before you has gone, proceed to the Pastor who will distribute the Body of Christ in the form of a host. After the person before you has gone, proceed to the Communion Assistant who will pour the Blood of Christ in the form of wine in the cup you received. If you desire grape juice simply point to it and the communion assistant will hand it to you. Once you have received the blood of Christ dispense of your cup in the basket by the piano and return to your seat.

**\*AFTER COMMUNION**

**LBW Pg. 92**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

**\*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

**“Thank the Lord”**

**LBW Pg. 92**

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
 he has done. Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-  
 joyce and proud-ly bear his name. He re-calls his prom-is-  
 es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-  
 giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**LBW Pg. 94**

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

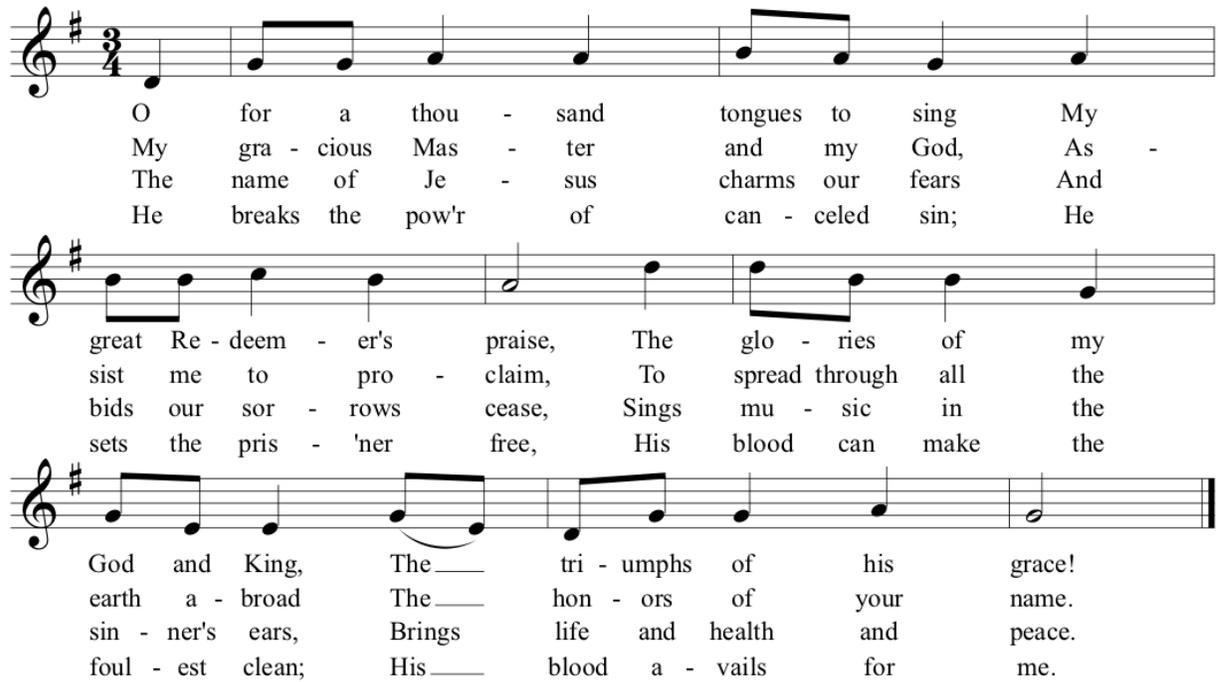
C: Amen

**\*BLESSING**

**LBW Pg. 94**

P: Almighty God, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.



To God all glory, praise, and love  
 Be now and ever giv'n  
 By saints below and saints above,  
 The church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788; Ralph E. Hudson, 1842-1901, Tune: Carl G. Glaser, 1784-1829; Lowell Mason, 1792-1872, Sola Online Worship eResource

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISMISSAL**

**LBW Pg. 95**

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

**Lora Sweeney**

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**WELCOME VISITORS!** We pray you experience God's presence and love among us today. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and sign the Guestbook downstairs. If you have **CHILDREN**, Children's Worship Bags are available from the Usher. And, of course, we hope to see you again!

**\*\*CONGREGATIONAL MEETING\*\*:** A special congregational meeting will be held immediately after the 10:00 service this morning to approve the proposed mission statement for our congregation. By taking this formalized step, we are committing to own this mission and organizing our ministry in such a way as we fulfill this statement God has given us. Your continued participation in this process is vital as we continue our discipleship journey together. A summary of the Cottage Meetings Review is included on the last page of this bulletin.

**BIBLE STUDY** will resume on Wednesday, May 12, for four weeks as we review the book of Philippians.

**LAKESIDE WORSHIP** begins next week, May 9. Join us under the pavilion at 8:30 am to rejoice in God's creation and celebrate **Mother's Day**. Please bring a chair and wear your masks. We will continue to follow Covid-19 protocols currently in place. Limited copies of the bulletin will be available, so please use your electronic device or print a copy for yourself. In-person and live streaming will continue at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.

**HONORING OUR GRADUATES** June is usually the month for graduations. If there is someone in your family who is graduating from high school or college this year, please let the church office know so that they can be recognized in next month's Acolyte. Send the information about your graduate by email to [office@emanuelelmer.church](mailto:office@emanuelelmer.church). Please include the name of the graduate, the name and location of the high school or college, possible future plans (e.g., attending Penn State in the fall), and how related to you or the congregation.

**Wi-Fi** is available for your convenience under the User Name "LutheranChurchGuest" and the password: *church01* (lowercase).

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**FOR PASTORAL CARE**, contact Pastor Mark (at home, text on his cell phone & email on front of Bulletin). If Pastor does not answer immediately, please leave a message.

**PRAYER CONCERNS** – please update any prayer concerns you may have requested. Let us know if you want individual prayer requests included on the Weekly Prayer List or just prayers with the prayer chain. Names on this list will be removed at the end of each month unless Pastor, Patsy or the office is notified otherwise.

Sarah Romig	Leona Knerr	Elizabeth Shimp	George Shimp
Elaine Williams	Mona Hess	Edna Halter	Betty Heil
Pauline Benjamin	Rick Pfeffer	George Moore	Harold Tyson
Nancy Heck	Rex Cobb	Joe Snowden	Kevin Ulhand
Dawn Colonna	Julie Sapp	Wayne Wright	Annabelle Cobb
Lucy Colon	Cindy Condello	Mary Jane Gray	Shawn Krueger Family
Virginia Franzen family			

**ALTAR FLOWER** sign-up list is on 1<sup>st</sup> floor Bulletin Board. Give or email your dedication wording to Patsy Madden [pbmadden11479@gmail.com](mailto:pbmadden11479@gmail.com) or Dianne Hermanson [office@emanuelelmer.church](mailto:office@emanuelelmer.church). Donation is \$40.

**OPTIONAL SEATING AVAILABLE** For those concerned about social distancing, individuals may sit in the choir loft, the balcony or downstairs for the service. Please keep your mask on until you exit the building.

**Next Week's Readings:**

Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17

## **Cottage Meeting Review Summary – March 23, 2021**

The hosts of the Cottage Meetings gathered over Zoom to review the highlights of the various meetings and to develop a proposed Mission Statement. The meeting began with a reading from Scripture and prayer.

The discussion centered on input received at the various meetings, focusing on commonalities. Many similar ideas and language were found in the highlights of the Cottage Meetings.

### **Common Thoughts**

- Light / lighthouse / beacon
- Ambassadors
- Witnesses
- Reconciliation
- Equipped
- Sharing

### **Common Actions**

- Gather
- Encourage
- Trust
- Baptism
- Witness
- Fellowship

Ideas about what a mission statement should be were exchanged, such as, should it be a statement or bullet points. All agreed that a mission statement is a goal, a statement of purpose, and should be short and concise. We want to answer the questions, “What does God want Emanuel to do to fulfill his mission?” And “Why do we exist here in Elmer, NJ?” Our Mission Statement begins with where we are now and leads to our Vision of where we are going.

Discussion included ideas, such as:

- A mission statement should include action and intent
- Be careful of using “insider” language
- Love God and others
- How to serve God and others
- Using our talents

Our proposed Mission Statement is:

**Emanuel Lutheran Church is a community of faith, leading people to Christ.**

What does this mean?

- A Bible-based beacon of hope
- Equipping to serve Christ
- Discipleship
- Sharing God’s love
- Baptism / Communion

This proposed Mission Statement will be presented to Council at its April meeting. Once approved by Council, it will need to be presented at a Congregational Meeting for discussion and final approval.