FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 11, 2025

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Missouri Synod



703 W 3RD Street Mercedes, TX 78570 956.565.1518 Immanuelmercedes @gmail.com

Website: lutheranmercedes.com

Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor 956.463.1305 eweber10@aol.com

> Sunday 9:00 A.M. Worship Service

> > 10:30 A.M.

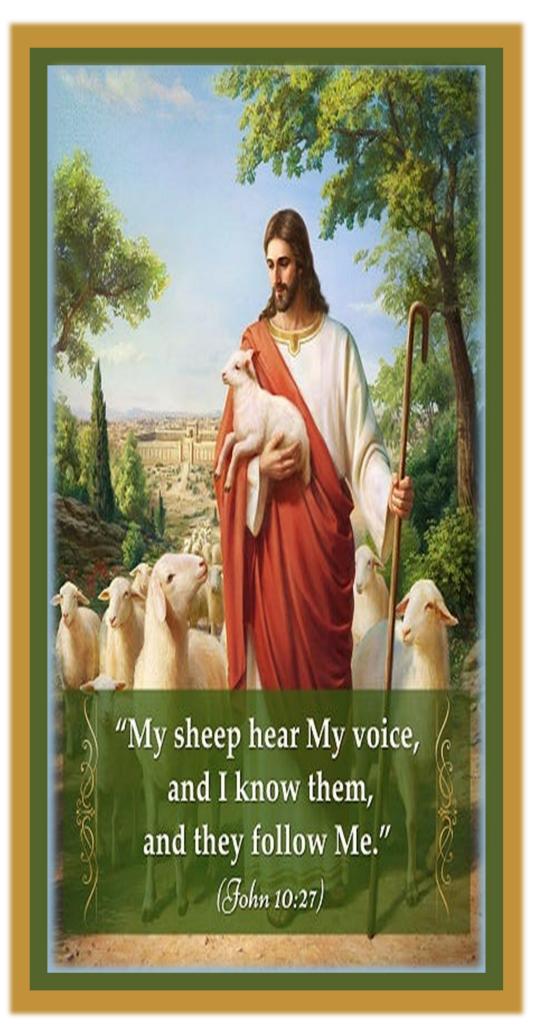
Adult Bible Class/ Sunday School

Holy Communion: Every Sunday

www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/

Website: Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs., M-F 8 am to 12 pm



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 11, 2025

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as Christ our Lord says, He gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29). And through this sacrament, He strengthens us for new life in Him (Romans 8:10;1 Peter 2:4). Jesus personally invites weak sinners (Mark 9:24) who trust His words, "This is My body which is given for you... this cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20), to receive His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. (Romans 8:31-32). Because "he who eats and drinks our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner drinks judgement to oneself" (1 Corinthians 11:29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith by those gathered at this altar (1 Cor.10:17;11:26), any who have not been instructed, or who hold a confession and church fellowship differing from that of this congregation, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and desire to receive the Sacrament, should first arrange to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matthew 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:14-21;11:17-34.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - O Merciful God, You have provided for me Your own Son to be my Good Shepherd and, through Him, pastors to serve as undershepherds for Your people. Continue to work in me through Your Son, Jesus Christ, that I may be kept safe from harm and led to everlasting life through Your Word and Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the

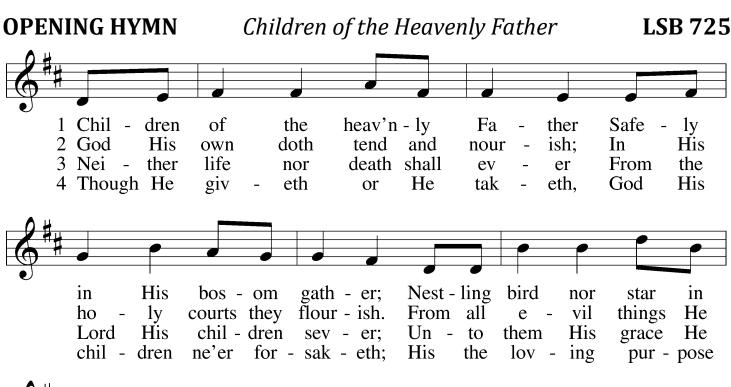
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - In our world of constant change and abundant challenges to our faith, we often feel alone, and fear causes us to question where God is and what He is doing. Our Good Shepherd has pledged never to abandon us but to be with us always. More than this, He has promised that no one can snatch us from His hand. He is the powerful Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. Because of the investment He has made in us, He does not surrender us to temptation, trouble, trial, or test.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE

PAGE 184

PRELUDE (a quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship) **WELCOME**





Text: Public domain Tune: Public domain

Please stand

INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
 (Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)
- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

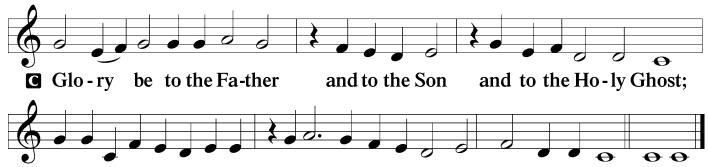
+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 78:70–72; 79:13; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

- P I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. And I lay down My life for the sheep.
- C He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds;

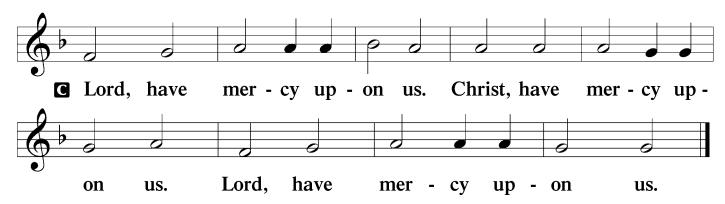
- P From following the ewes that had young He brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance.
- C So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.
- P So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks forever; we will show forth Your praise to all generations.
- C I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. And I lay down My life for the sheep.

GLORIA PATRI

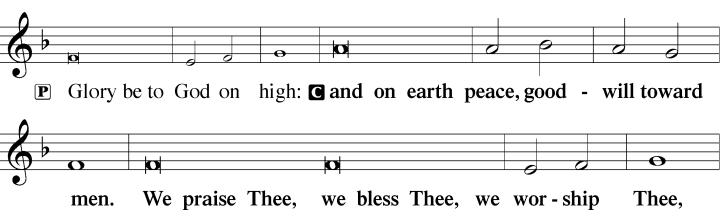


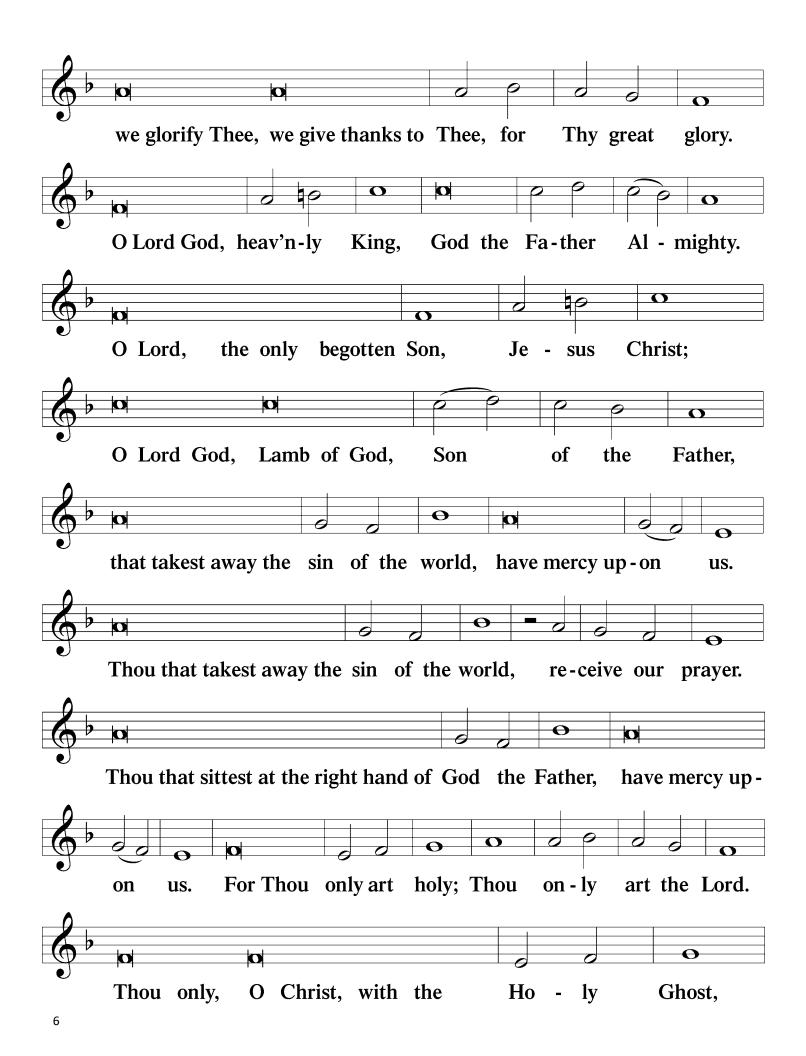
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

KYRIE



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

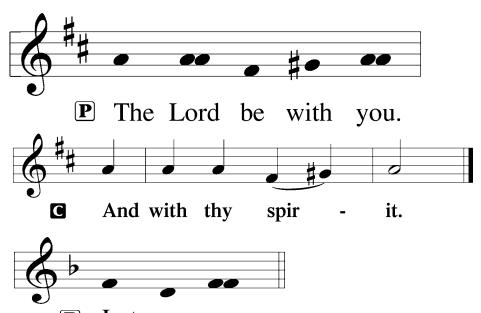






art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Almighty Cod more

P Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please sit

FIRST READING Acts 20:17–35

("Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock.")

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived

among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. 22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. 25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 23; antiphon: v. 4

- P Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- C The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- P He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.
- C He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
- P Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- C You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.
- P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
- C Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

EPISTLE *Revelation 7:9–17*

(The Lamb who sits on the throne shall be their Shepherd.)

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:

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

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

(Continue on next page)

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:22-30

(No one can snatch the sheep out of the Shepherd's hand.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.



- 22 Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.
- 23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. 24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."
- 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than

all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please sit

HYMN OF THE DAY The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want LSB 710





SERMON "The plain, comforting Good Shepherd's voice speaks to you!" John 10:23-30

OFFERING

Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion

LSB 559



SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you" [American Sign Language]

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Doris Pickering Anita Swanson

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Text and tune: Public domain

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all

people according to their needs.

Father, You have shown Your goodness and mercy in providing for us Your own Son to be our Good Shepherd and to lay down His life for His sheep. Grant us Your grace that we may hear the voice of our Good Shepherd, follow where He leads, and live in peace and quietness all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father, Your Son has raised up undershepherds through whom He provides His care and protection, guarding us by His Word and nurturing our faith by His Sacraments. Make us attentive to their voice that we may be kept from danger and secured in the truth so that nothing can snatch us from Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father, we have seen Your goodness in the still quiet waters and rich green pastures You daily and richly provide. Give us wise and grateful hearts that we may receive Your grace with thanksgiving and treasure them in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father, Your watchful care is supplied for us in the governments and leaders of our land. Give to us wise and faithful leaders who will govern us according to Your Word and will work for peace and justice for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father, shepherd the sick and suffering to healing and relief that they may know Your presence in trouble and Your peace in trial. Hear us especially for [names, and] all who stand in need of Your grace, and keep them to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father, give comfort and hope to those who are bereaved, that we may be consoled with the knowledge that those who die in Christ live forevermore. [Hear us especially for . . ., that they may be sustained in their hour of grief by the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting.] Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

 P_{14} Father, as Your Son has provided us the food of heaven and the cup of

salvation in the communion of His own body and blood, make us ready to receive this gift through repentance and faith, and help us to show forth in our daily lives the fruits of this Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Father, deliver us from distraction and complacency, lest we wander from the arms of Your mercy and lose the blessing of Your sheepherding care. Bring us at last with all Your sheep that we may be one flock under the one Good Shepherd, united in doctrine and in faith in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

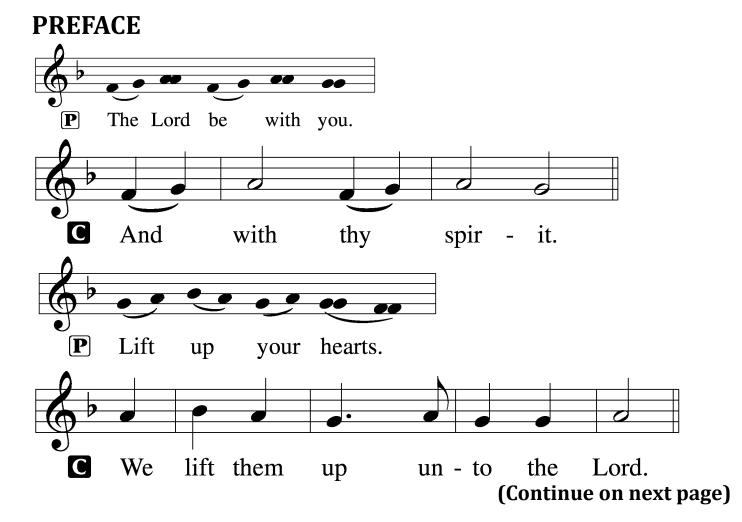
C hear our prayer.

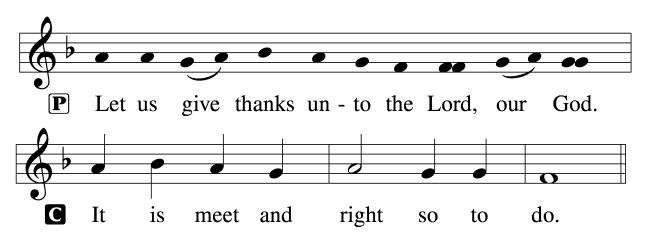
Additional petitions may be inserted here.

P Into Your hands, O loving and gentle Shepherd, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

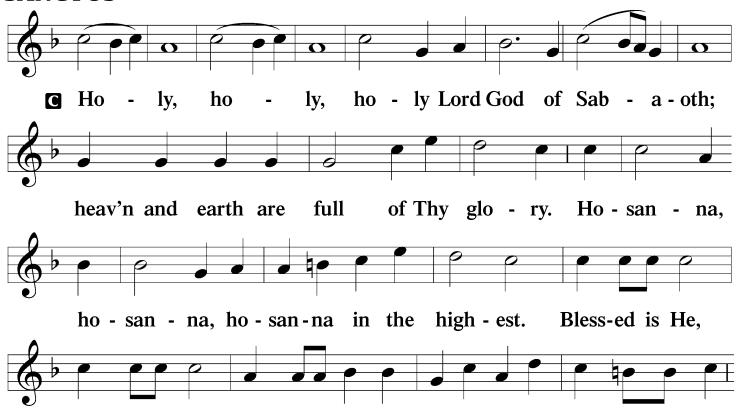




P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



16



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

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.



THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

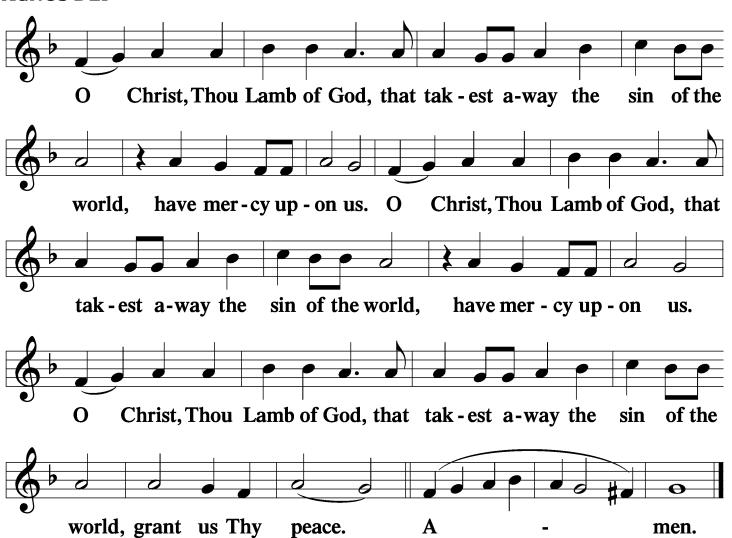
PAX DOMINI



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



AGNUS DEI

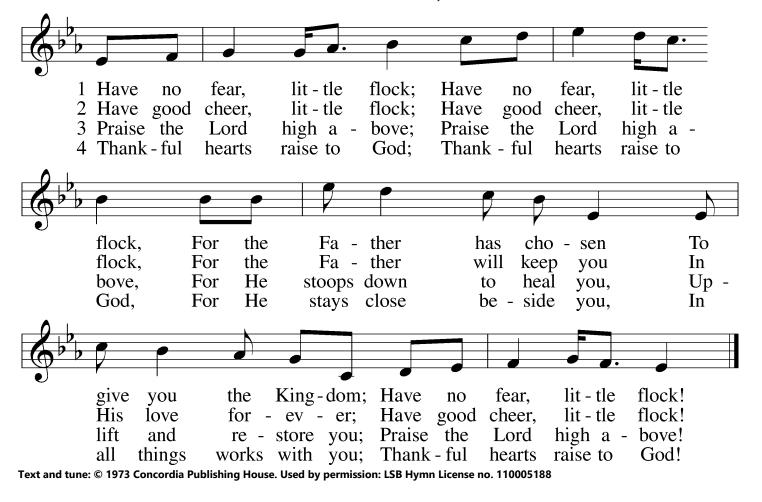


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DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

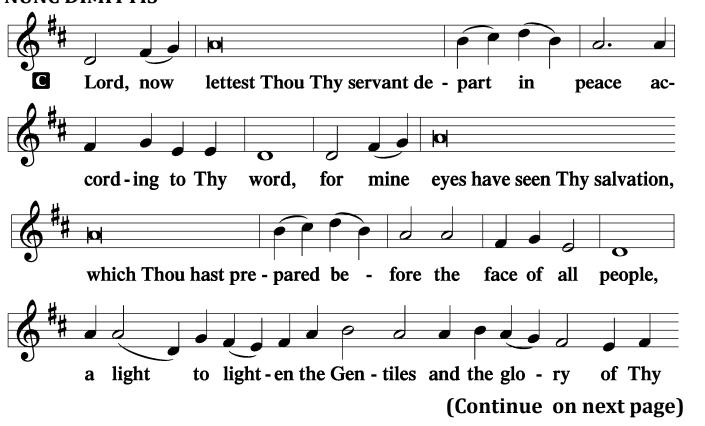
SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

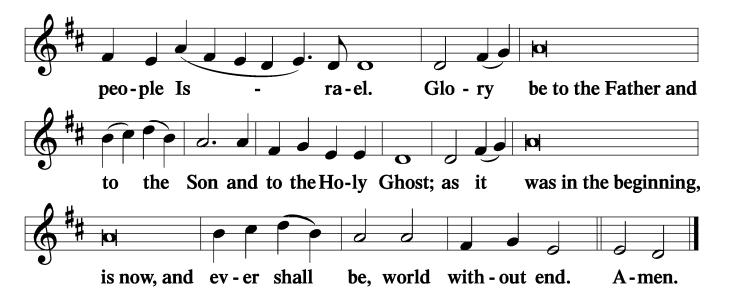
Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of the water of life freely, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.



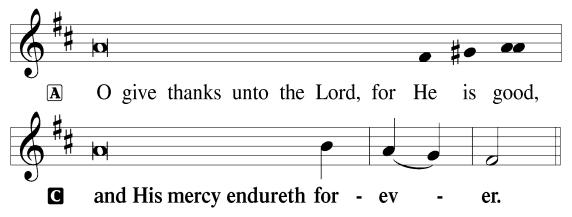
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NUNC DIMITTIS





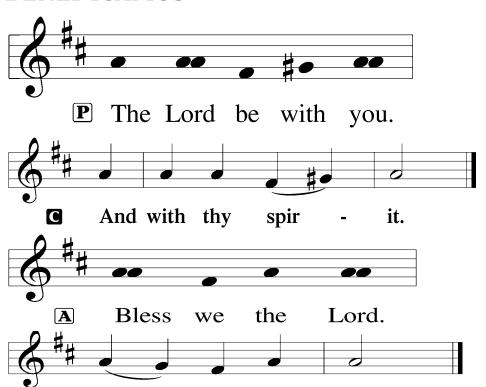
THANKSGIVING



P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICAMUS



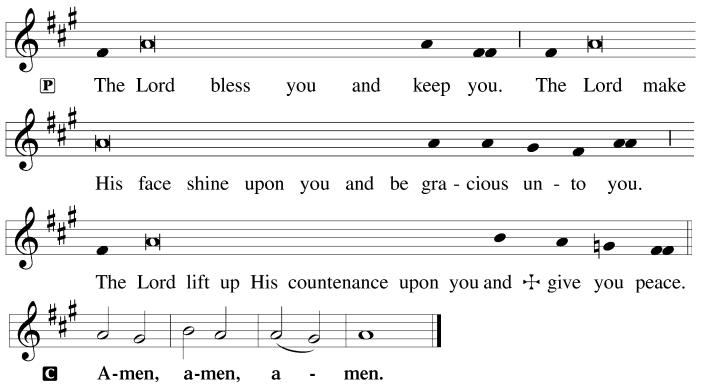
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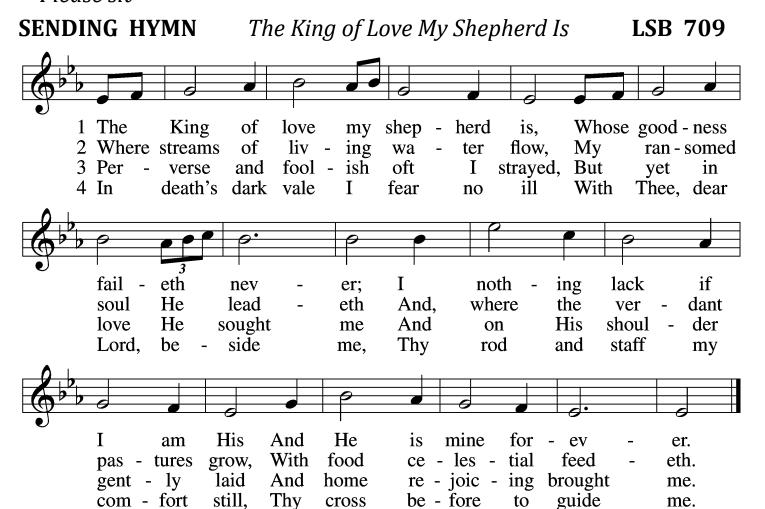
BENEDICTION

C

Thanks



God.



- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth; And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace as you serve our heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer for April to June 2025 are available in the Narthex or office.

Join us for **Sunday School and Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Weber is leading the class.

May Activities

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers.

- > Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 17th
- > Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th Office Closed.
- > Men's Steak Night/Bible Study, Tuesday, May 27th @ 6:00 p.m.
- > <u>Graduation/Promotion Ceremony</u> Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. <u>Congregation is invited</u>; there will be a light Reception, following the Ceremony.

Immanuel Lutheran School

- > Donuts for Dad May 19,2025
- > Memorial Day May 26,2025 (No Classes)
- > Graduation/Promotion Ceremony Thursday, May 29,2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- > Last Day of School, Reverse Day (Lock-In) Friday, May 30, 2025 from 4 to 10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Memory Verse Challenge:

This Week's

Acts 16:31

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Hold On

John 10:28 (from Kids Portals of Prayer)

Sophie and her parents went to visit her grandparents on their farm. She looked forward to running in the wide-open spaces and flying her kite.

As soon as Sophie and her parents arrived, Rex, the family dog, greeted them with barks. After a while, her dad said, "Sophie, are you ready to fly your kite?"



"Yes, sir!" she said.

Her dad helped her find just the right spot, and she started running. Rex ran too, barking with each step. They ran together until Sophie tripped. She went down; the kite went up. The string slipped from Sophie's hand. The wind snatched away her kite. In an instant, Sophie's joy turned to tears.

That night, Sophie and her dad talked about the kite. She was still sad that she dropped the string and the wind blew the kite away. Her dad hugged her. He reminded her that Jesus has a perfect grip. He is the Good Shepherd who cares for us, His sheep. He says, "No one will snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28).

Do you know why Jesus' grip is so strong? Because He knows the devil will try to snatch us away from Him. He knows we may be tempted to go away from Him. Our Good Shepherd laid down His life for His sheep. He defeated our enemies. We need never fear that the devil can take us away. Jesus holds on to us.

Journal: What is God's promise for you in today's Bible verse?

Pray: Dear God, thank You for holding me tightly when temptations come or doubts make

me question Your love. Keep me as Your sheep, always hearing Your voice and following You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen. D. G.



5/4/2025

Sunday Worship 32

Plate: \$ 210.00

Envelopes: \$ 2,343.00

Envelopes-Other:

Donation: \$ 3,615.00

On Line \$ 750.00

Memorial:

Total: \$ 6,918.00

Bible Class: **11** \$ 12.00

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 11:1–18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1–7

John 16:12-22 or John 13:31-35

Sermon Notes
Fourth
Sunday
Easter

The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came from the Father and became flesh among us in order to rescue us, His sheep. He laid down His life for us and took it up again in order to give us eternal life. By the preaching of His Gospel, He calls His sheep to Himself and keeps them with Him forever. As they hear His voice and follow Him, "they will never perish" (John 10:28), for "no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand" (John 10:29). In the same way, faithful pastors (literally, "shepherds") "care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood" (Acts 20:28), "testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). Therefore, with all the company of heaven, the Good Shepherd gathers His flock in worship, as they cry: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:10).

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	May Sunday Servants:		
Elder:	Don Vogel		
Altar Guild:	Billie Jo Neuhaus/ Maggie Weber		
Music:	Doris Pickering		
This Week	Fourth Sunday of Easter		
Usher:	Ken Eilers		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am	
Next Week	Fifth Sunday of Easter		
Usher:	Don Vogel		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am	