FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 7, 2023

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Missouri Synod



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

<u>Website:</u>

lutheranmercedes.com

Sunday 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Class Sunday School

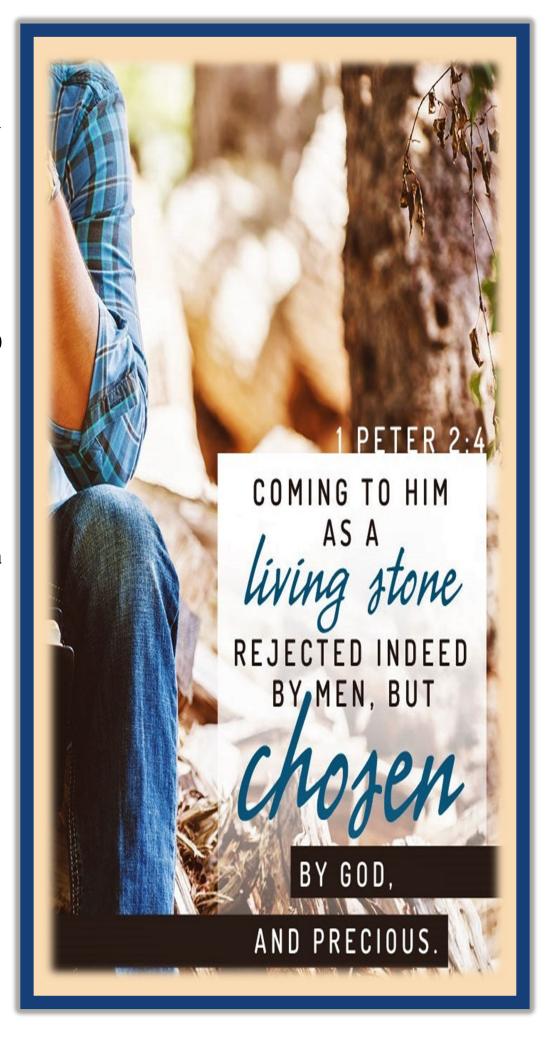
Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/

Website:

Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs, M-F 8 am to 12 pm CCLI # 2585510



# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 7, 2023

# **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.

This week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Lord Jesus Christ, You are the cornerstone and foundation upon which Your Church is built. Tear down all that I have built that was built apart from You, and tether me upon Yourself, my Rock and my Redeemer, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**AS WE GATHER** - We continue to focus our attention on Jesus' resurrection. We see that Jesus is the stone that was rejected by the religious leaders. He was crucified and killed by them. Yet God raised Jesus from the dead, making Him the cornerstone, the foundational stone upon which all the other stones in the building are aligned and built. As we build upon the foundation and cornerstone of Jesus, we are conformed and aligned to Him.

**DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR** 

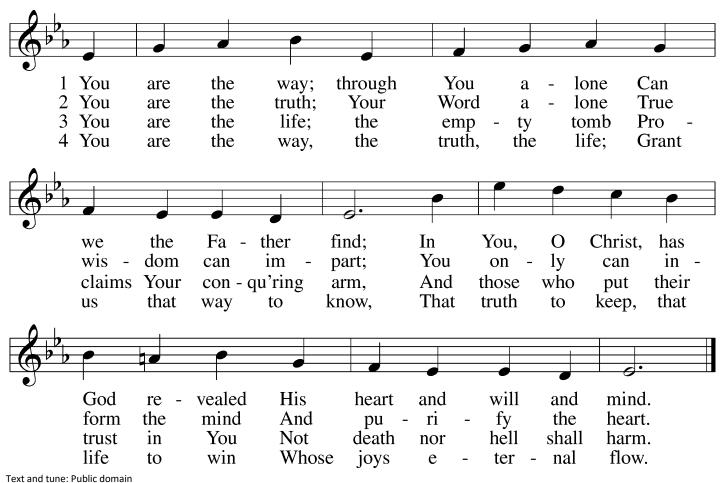
**PAGE 203** 

**WELCOME** 

**PRELUDE** 

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

#### **OPENING HYMN** You Are the Way; through You Alone LSB 526



# Please stand

# **INVOCATION**

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

# **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- $\mathbf{C}$ 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 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1

- P Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints.
- C I will extol You, O Lord, for You have lifted me up, and have not let my foes rejoice over me.
- P O Lord my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me.
- C O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.
- P Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.
- C For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
- P Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints.

## **KYRIE**



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

#### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



glo - ry And peace to C 1 To God on high be all the earth: You, O sole-begot - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, 2 To we pray; ho - ly; You on - ly 3 For You a - lone are the Lord. are



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth! O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way. For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high— In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

#### **SALUTATION**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And with your spirit.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

# **FIRST READING** Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

(Stephen remains faithful in the midst of death.)

1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. 8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen.

2 And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia,

51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it." 54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man

standing at the right hand of God!" 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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

# **PSALM** Psalm 146; antiphon: v. 2

- P While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- C Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
- P While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- C Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.
- P His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish.
- C Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God,
- P Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever,
- C Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.
- P The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord raises those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
- C The Lord watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; but the way of the wicked He turns upside down.
- P The Lord shall reign forever—Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!
- ALL While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE 7

# God while I have my being.

**EPISTLE** 1 Peter 2:2–10 (Built on Jesus, we are a chosen people.)

2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,

"Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient,

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,"

8 and

"A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense."

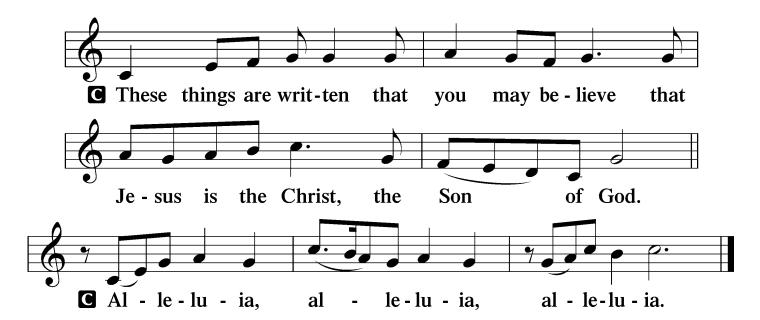
They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

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

#### ALLELUA and VERSE





Please stand

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 14:1–14* (Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.)

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

# C Glory to You, O Lord.

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know." 5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or

else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

#### NICENE CREED

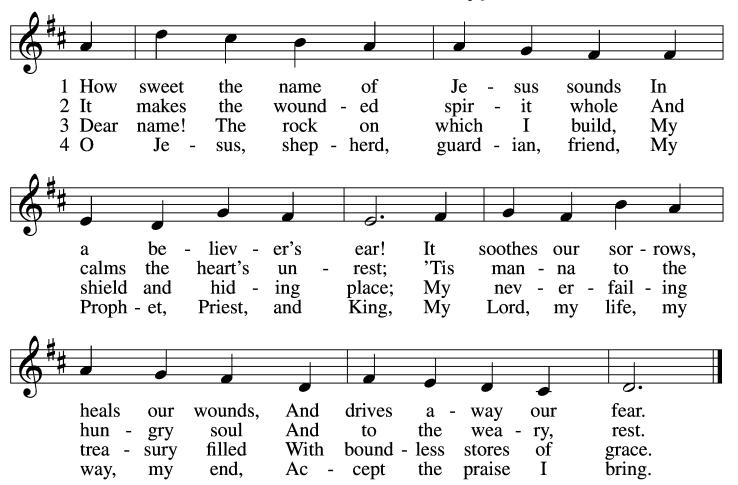
All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

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 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds LSB 524



- 5 How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought! But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.
- 6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath; And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!

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# SERMON "Your Precious Living Stone - Jesus!"

(1 Peter 2:4)

#### **OFFERING**

#### Please stand

#### **OFFERTORY** Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us LSB 851 vs. 1-3 bought 1 Lord of glo You have With Your ry, us 2 Grant hearts, us dear Lord, to give You Glad ly, 3 Won - drous hon You To or have giv en our grudg - ing for life - blood Nev - er as the price, the sun - shine of free - ly of Your own. With the Your hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te rious ri - fice; lost That dous ones tre men sac thank - less Melt hearts of stone good ness our "You done Me." tence, have it all to sen free And with that have ly giv Bless en ings Till self ish our cold and na - tures, Warmed by Can it be. 0 gra - cious Mas - ter, That You count - less the sand To the un - thank - ful as length be - lieve That You, at more hap py ing deign for alms to sue, Say by Your With and the vil Your un - spar - ing hand. own 'Tis than more bless ed to give to re - ceive. and need у, "Give as have giv'n to you"? poor Text and tune: Public domain

# SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you" (John 20:21) (Sharing through ASL (American Sign Language))

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Incorporating LSB 912:1** 

- P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Christ is our cornerstone,
- C on Him alone we build.
- P Lord Jesus Christ, we bring before You all those who have built their lives on something other than You. We pray that You would draw them to Yourself that they may build on a sure foundation. Christ is our cornerstone,
- C on Him alone we build.
- P Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all those who have trouble in this world, including for the homeless, the poor, the lonely, the unemployed, those who are abused, and those who are taken advantage of. Lead each of these to steadier situations, so that their lives may evermore be built on You. Christ is our cornerstone,
- C on Him alone we build.
- P Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort all those who are suffering in grief, [especially . . .]. Point them to the hope that in Your Father's house are many rooms, and You have gone to prepare a place for us. Christ is our cornerstone,
- C on Him alone we build.
- P Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all those struggling with relationship issues, whether that is friendships, family dynamics, marital struggles, or anything else. We pray that You would bring reconciliation in the midst of such struggle. Remind Your people that they are chosen and holy and called to reflect Your forgiveness. Christ is our cornerstone,
- C on Him alone we build.
- P Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for our nation and its leaders. For our president and vice president and their staffs, for Congress and all lawmakers, for the Supreme Court and all judges, we pray that **CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE** 13

You would shine Your wisdom upon these, Your servants. Guide them to perform their tasks with justice and equity. Christ is our cornerstone,

#### C on Him alone we build.

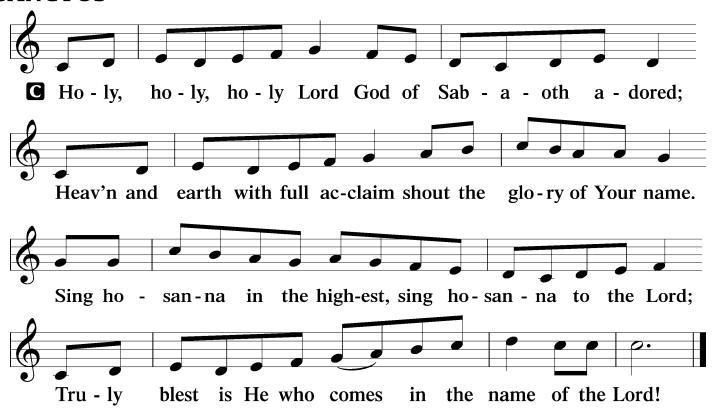
- P Lord Jesus Christ, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [especially . . .]. Have mercy upon them, and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Christ is our cornerstone,
- C on Him alone we build.
- P Lord Jesus Christ, we commend all these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and intercede for us and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

#### +SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

#### **PREFACE**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And with your spirit.
- 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 Him thanks and praise.
- 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:

#### **SANCTUS**



#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### 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; CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

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.

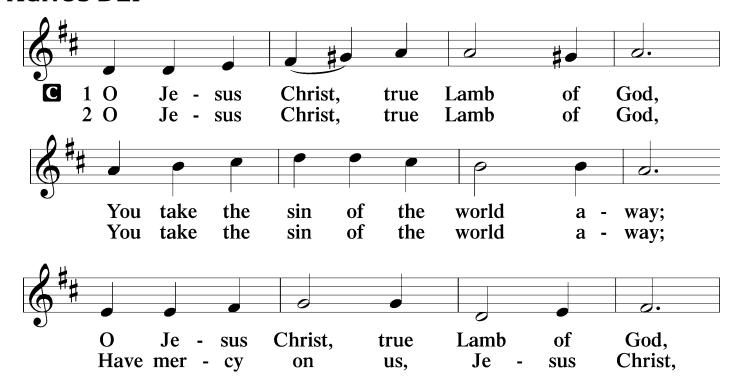
#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

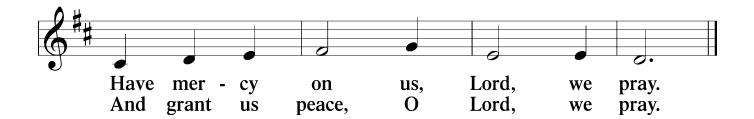
- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when 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 always.
- C Amen.

### **AGNUS DEI**





Please sit.

#### 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.

# **DISTRIBUTION HYMN** I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table LSB 618

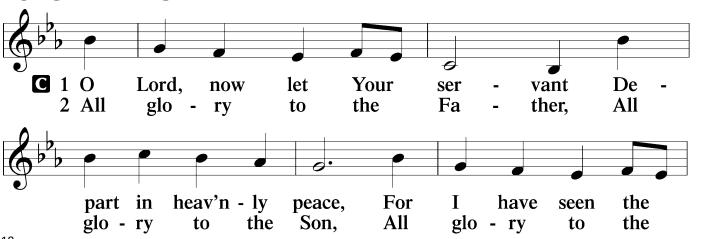


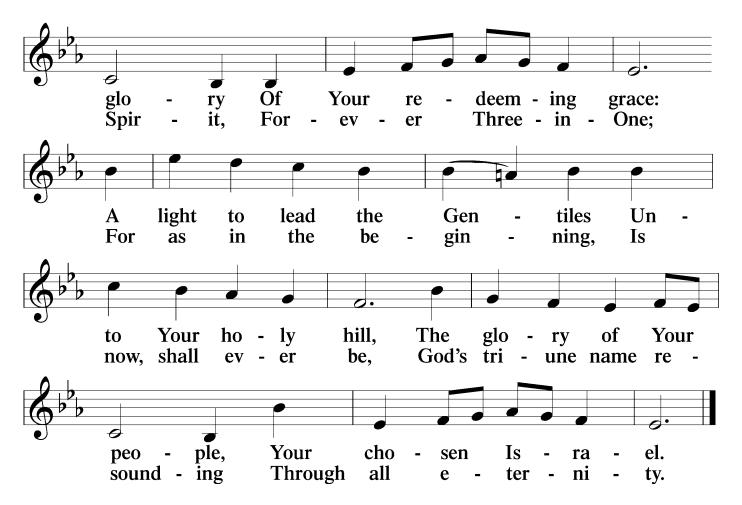
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

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#### Please stand

#### **NUNC DIMITTIS**





#### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

#### **BENEDICAMUS**

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

# **BENEDICTION**

(Numbers 6:24–26)

- P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.
- C Amen.

# **SENDING HYMN**

# Precious Lord, Take My Hand

LSB 739

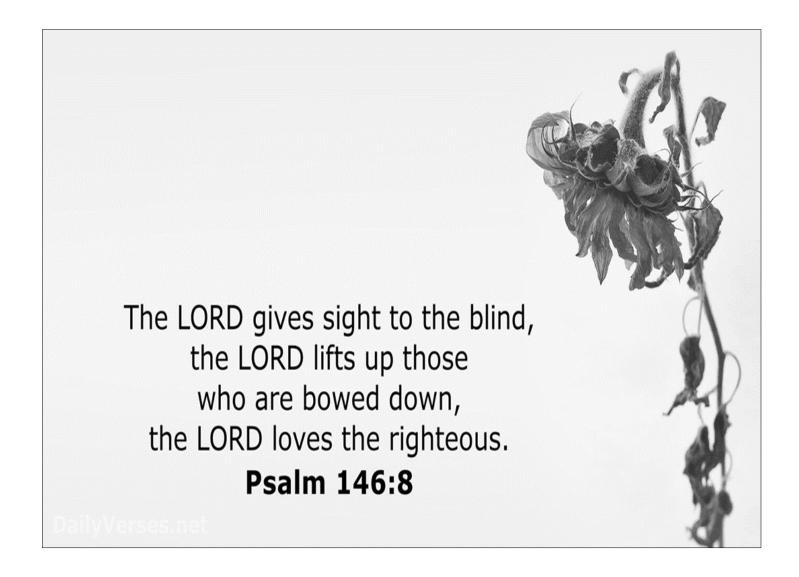


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#### **DISMISSAL**

- P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God!

#### **POSTLUDE**



#### From Pastor's Desk

**Portals of Prayer** for April to June 2023 are available in the Narthex or office.

Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Weber will be leading the class.

#### **May Activities**

#### Immanuel Lutheran School Activities

Friday, May 12th - **Muffins for Mom**Monday, May 22nd - **Donuts for Dad**Wednesday, May 24th - **Graduation/Promotion Ceremony**6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall

#### **Class of 2023**

Kindergarten Fifth Grade
(to 1st) (to 6th)
Cassius Cruz Isabelle Cavazos
Camila Flores Iliana Leal
Mercedes Runte

1st to 2nd - Sofia Enszer 2nd to 3rd - Sophia Cruz, Charlotte Rocha, Joy Weber 3rd to 4th - Santiago Aguilera, Cristian Enszer, Carmen Flores 4th to 5th - Karolina Ureste

# Memory Verse Challenge

This week's memory verse: **John 17:17** 

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.



# The Lord Jesus Christ Is the Way, the Truth and the Life

The risen Lord Jesus alone is "the way, and the truth, and the life," and we come "to the Father" only through Him (John 14:6). God is thus "glorified in the Son," and those who believe in Him will do the works of Christ because He goes to the Father for us (John 14:12–14). Stephen, "a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5) and "doing great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8), did the works of Christ. When he was falsely accused and put to death, he "gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55). Fixing his hope there, he commended his spirit to the Lord Jesus and prayed for his murderers. In the same way, all the baptized are called to follow the example of Christ Jesus by faith. Though He was "rejected by men" in the sight of God, He is "chosen and precious" (1 Peter 2:4). He is the chief cornerstone of the Father's "spiritual house," and we are built upon Him as "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5).

4/30/2023

4/30/2023			SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
Sunday Worship			Readings:	
Plate:		\$ 255.00	Reduings.	
Envelopes:		\$ 1,123.00	Acts 17:16-31	
Donations:	Total:	\$ 1,378.00	Psalm 66:8-20	
			1 Peter 3:13-22	
Bible Class:	14	\$ 8.00	John 14:15-21	
	Bi-Weekl	y Church Activit	y Schedule	
	May Sunday Servants:			
Elder:	Don Vogel			
Altar Guild:	Billie Jo Neuhaus & Maribel Perez			
Music:	Doris Pickering			
This Week	Fifth Sunday of Easter			
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus			
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service 9:00 am			
•	Sunday So	chool & Adult Bil	ble Study 10:30 am	
Next Week	Sixth Sunday of Easter			
Usher:	Ken Eilers			
Sunday:	Worship Service 9:00 am			
24	Sunday So	chool & Adult Bil	ble Study 10:30 am	