



Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

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www.immanuelnyc.org

www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

Immanuel's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCixDAacoJS7umLndiBnugmw>

You may tune in at 11 AM.

The Fifth Sunday in Easter

May 2, 2021

Warm welcome, everyone, to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Thank you for joining us in this online way.

This is a spoken liturgy during these pandemic days. Still, this particular Sunday marks progress for us because today's cantor, Michael Celentano, is with us here in church. We will have to wait a while before we can all sing out again. So, things are not yet back to normal. Still, we hope you will find strength for your souls in this spoken liturgy. Thank you for joining in the prayers of thanksgiving by way of the Lord's Supper.

If you do not already have a church home, please consider joining us here at Immanuel. Just speak with Pastor Carol or send her a note (ceafryer@gmail.com).

In Christ,

Pastor Gregory P. Fryer
gp Fryer@gmail.com

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☐ In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ 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.

☑ **Amen.**

☐ 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.

Stand/kneel

☐ Most merciful God,

☑ **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.**

☐ 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 the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Entrance Rite

HYMN WOV 674

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

EARTH AND ALL STARS

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

- 2 Walking the way, Christ in the center
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain*
- 3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain*
- 4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain*
- 5 City of God, Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels,
sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain*

EASTER SEASON GREETING

- ☐ Christ is risen! Alleluia.
- ☑ **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray. O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

The Liturgy of the Word of God

FIRST LESSONActs 8:26-40, RSV

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.

²⁶But 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 road. ²⁷And he rose and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of the Can'dace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless some one guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture which he was reading was this:

"As a sheep led to the slaughter or a lamb before its shearer is dumb, so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied

him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken up from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, pray, does the prophet say this, about himself or about some one else?"

³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. ³⁶And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰But Philip was found at Azo'tus, and passing on he preached the gospel to all the towns till he came to Caesare'a.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

PSALM 22:24-30, LBW

²⁴My praise is of him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

²⁵**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:

“May your heart live forever!”

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷**For kingship belongs to the LORD;**

he rules over the nations.

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹**My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him;**

they shall be known as the LORD’s forever.

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn

the saving deeds that he has done.

SECOND LESSON 1 John 4:7-21, NRSV

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.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In 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. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do

testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Love 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. ¹⁸There 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. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those 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. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this:

those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Stand for the Verse and the Holy Gospel

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL..... John 15:1-8, RSV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th Chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. He

who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.

After the Gospel:

P The Gospel of the Lord!

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (*Sit, after the invocation.*)

HYMN LBW 513

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

THE CALL

- 1 Come, my way, my truth, my life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as conquers death.
- 2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength:
such a light as shows a feast;

such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes his guest.

- 3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

THE PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Let us offer a sign of peace to our neighbors: "Peace be with you."

THE OFFERING *You can give your tithes and offerings via our Q code. Just point the camera on your smart phone to the code:*



Or you can donate via this link: [Donate](#) Here are some other options for giving: [Ways to Give](#)

The Eucharistic Bread and Wine are moved from the credence table to the altar. The congregation remains in the pews until the Distribution of the Sacrament.

A Let us pray.

C **Merciful Father, 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 (*spoken*)

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 him thanks and praise.**

Preface for Easter

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer II

P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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 from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☩ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

☩ Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

☩ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

☩ Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

☩ Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

☩ 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 unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

☩ Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction (The Bread is broken)

Agnus Dei

**☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

✦ If you are home during this pandemic, worshiping online with us, here is a possible “Prayer for Spiritual Communion” lifted up in a recent *Forum Letter* (May 2020). *Forum Letter* is a respected Lutheran newsletter published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Communion Anthem

Ave Verum
(Michael Celentano)

Edward Elgar (c. 1857-1934)

Ave, verum corpus natum
de Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine:
cuius latus perforatum
vero fluxit sanguine,
esto nobis praegustatum,
in mortis examine.
O clemens, O pie,
O dulcis jesu, fili Mariae.

Hail the true body,
born of the Virgin Mary:
you who truly suffered and were sacrificed
on the cross for the sake of man,
from whose pierced flank
flowed water and blood,
be a foretaste for us
in the trial of death.
O merciful, O gentle,
O sweet Jesus, son of Mary.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

- 1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives!
He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death
Christ, the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies
of his people, yet to rise.

- 2 Jesus lives! Why do you weep?
Why that sad and mournful sigh?
He who died our brother here
lives our brother still on high,
lives forever to bestow
blessings on his church below.

- 3 Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,
life eternal waits for you;
joined to him, your living head,
where he is, you shall be too;
with the Lord, at his right hand,
as a victor you shall stand.

- 4 Jesus lives! Let all rejoice.
Praise him, ransomed of the earth.
Praise him in a nobler song,
cherubim of heav'nly birth.
Praise the victor king, whose sway
sin and death and hell obey.

- 5 Hallelujah! Angels, sing!
Join with us in hymns of praise.
Let your chorus swell the strain
which our feebler voices raise:
Glory to our God above
and on earth his peace and love!

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lucidor einss hütt der schaf

Matthias Weckman (c. 1616-1674)

Parish Announcements

- ✦ COPYRIGHTS: Parts of the liturgy and scripture introductions come from or are based on those from *Sundays and Seasons, Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress*. Readings of Holy Scripture are downloaded from Bible Gateway — <https://www.biblegateway.com/>. Copyright information for the various translations is included on the Bible Gateway website.
- ✦ FAIRLY NEW TO PRAYER LIST: Sieglinda O'Donnell (wife of our Jim O'Donnell, of blessed memory), Edna Szmodis, Britney Berhaman (friend of Diana Montesdeoca), Marion Nitsch (mother of David Kiehl's friend Carolina Nitsch), Raymond Chin (cousin of Priscilla O'Carroll), Marion Molno, Emma Kaefer
- ✦ IN CONTINUING NEED OF PRAYER: Melissa Alke (friend of Kathy Jolowicz), John Romano (brother-in-law to Richard and Maggie Schreiber), Robert Mallery (son-in-law of David Kiehl's sister), Wolfgang Hahn, Yoleidy Perez (Tamares's brother), Obdulia Mundo (friend of Maggie Schreiber), Mary Ann Grant (Deirdre's mother)
- ✦ ALTAR FLOWERS given to the glory of God and in loving memory of parents, Ann and Michael Chomko and grandparents, Anna and Paul Kralovenec and Anastasia and John Chomko, by Barbara Chomko.

Ministers

Director of Music/OrganistDr. Gwendolyn Toth
 Audio Production..... Dongsok Shin
 Cantor.....Michael Celentano
 Lector..... Susan Gottridge
 Presiding Minister and Preacher..... Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

Some Notes on Our Church Nave and Liturgy

- ✦ You might be interested to hear about our reredos — the wooden altarpiece at the front of our church. It was hand carved by artists in Germany's Black Forest. The left statue is Moses, with the Ten Commandments in his left arm and the two horn-like rays of light shining forth from his face after his encounter with the Lord on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 34:29-30). The right-hand statue is St. John the Evangelist, with a quill pen in his hand and an eagle at his feet. And the center statue is Jesus Christ, the personal unity and the most perfect meaning of the Law (Moses) and the Gospel (St. John).
- ✦ Our painting of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, above the reredos, pays tribute to the founding liturgy of our congregation, Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 1863. Our painting shows Jesus, Moses, and Elijah elevated above the ground, so that at first glance you might think that it is a painting of the Ascension. But the saintly company with Jesus — Moses and Elijah on either side, with Peter, James, and John fallen down in awe at the sight — point to the Transfiguration. Heaven knows and gives credit to the anonymous painter of our painting, but we note that it is in the style of Raphael's painting of *The Transfiguration* (1517-1520). Raphael also placed Jesus, Moses, and Elijah elevated above the disciples.
- ✦ Our church windows were installed in 1973 and constitute a visual meditation on an ancient hymn of the Church, the *Te Deum*. Pamphlets are available in the rear of the church explaining the windows one by one.
- ✦ Our church bells, named *Glaube*, *Hoffnung*, and *Liebe* for Faith, Hope, and Love, were a gift from German Empress Augusta Viktoria.
- ✦ A hint about acoustics: you will be able to hear the choir and organ better if you sit toward the front half of the church. The overhanging choir balcony obscures some of the beauty of the music for those sitting under it.
- ✦ Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me," and we view the presence of children in worship, even when they are wiggly and noisy, as a gift to the Church and an encouragement that our congregation is growing! Parents at their own preference are also welcome to take advantage of free childcare which we offer in the Undercroft every Sunday for children age 3-6. Our childcare worker will bring these children up to the Communion rail to receive a Blessing. We encourage older children to attend the entire service, either sitting with their parents or up in the balcony where the teens tend to congregate.
- ✦ Our worship book is the green hymnal, the *Lutheran Book of Worship* ("LBW"). This book contains both liturgies and hymns, with liturgies in the first half and hymns in the second. Sometimes we include hymns from *With One Voice* ("WOV") or from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ("ELW").
- ✦ If you have a cell phone, please silence it for the liturgy. And please finish coffee or other drinks out in the narthex rather than in the main nave.
- ✦ This congregation is a member of the NALC – the "North American Lutheran Church." The national bishop of the NALC is Rev. Daniel W. Selbo.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

122 East 88th Street ❖ New York, NY 10128 ❖ (212) 289-8128

www.immanuelnyc.org www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChurchNYC

HOLY COMMUNION	11 AM Sundays
MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION	6:30 PM Wednesdays
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Via Zoom these days
MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY	6:30 PM Mondays, via Zoom these days
INTERIM OFFICE MANAGER	Melissa Phillips
SEXTON	Gerry Britton
PARISH BOOKKEEPER.....	Charles Derderian
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Dr. Gwendolyn Toth
PASTOR.....	Rev. Carol E. A. Fryer
SENIOR PASTOR.....	Rev. Gregory P. Fryer

Some Parish Ministry Opportunities:

CHOIR.....Director of Music Dr. Gwendolyn Toth (212) 289-8128

We extend to you a cordial welcome and hope that you will return. If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the cards in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Carol Fryer. If you are interested in membership here at Immanuel, please contact the church office for an appointment with Pastor Carol. Or you can email her at ceafryer@gmail.com.

- ✦ HOLY COMMUNION is offered to all baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Church's faith, who confess it with us (as in the Creeds), and who may in good conscience receive the Sacrament in keeping with the understanding with which it is celebrated here: namely, that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and are distributed to and received by all who commune.
- ✦ HOLY BAPTISM is celebrated and MARRIAGES solemnized only after consultation with the pastor well in advance. If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, homebound, or otherwise in need of the ministry of the Church, let us know. Call the church office during the week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ✦ We mean for PRIVATE CONFESSION to be available as often as you need. Please call one of the Pastors (212-289-8128) or email them: gp Fryer@gmail.com or ceafryer@gmail.com.
- ✦ LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL FOR THE SICK is available. Again, simply contact Pastor Fryer.
- ✦ FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: There is a long line of Christians, both rich and poor, who have disciplined themselves to budget a portion of their income, put it into an offering envelope first thing, and give it to the church. Pastors Carol and Gregory Fryer live by that tradition and commend it to you. Online giving is also available through our website, or by following this QR code with your phone camera:

