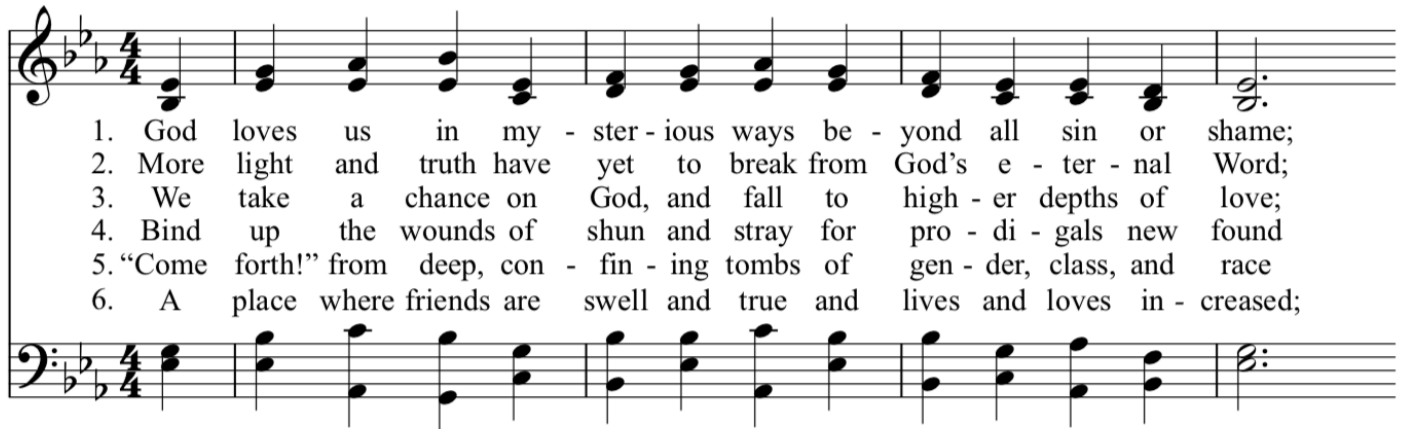


Fourth Sunday After Epiphany, January 31st 2021
Annual Meeting and Reconciling in Christ Sunday
Zoom Service 10:30 AM
Immanuel Lutheran Church

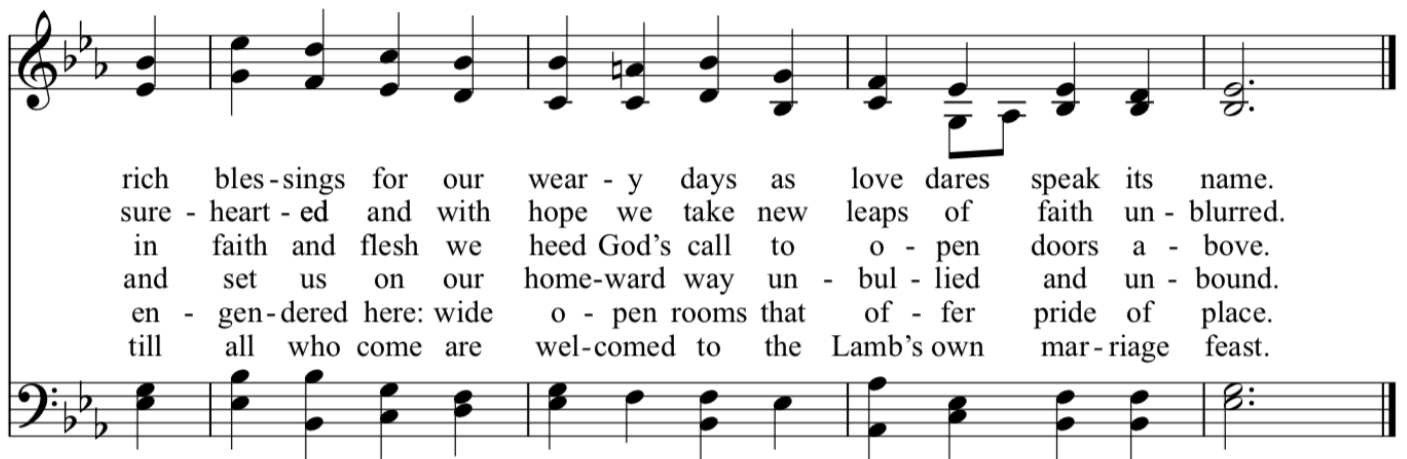
Prelude God Loves Us in Mysterious Ways

Edward Moran, 2015

DUNDEE
Scottish Psalter 1615



1. God loves us in my - ster - ious ways be - yond all sin or shame;
2. More light and truth have yet to break from God's e - ter - nal Word;
3. We take a chance on God, and fall to high - er depths of love;
4. Bind up the wounds of shun and stray for pro - di - gals new found
5. "Come forth!" from deep, con - fin - ing tombs of gen - der, class, and race
6. A place where friends are swell and true and lives and loves in - creased;



rich bles - sings for our wear - y days as love dares speak its name.
sure - heart - ed and with hope we take new leaps of faith un - blurred.
in faith and flesh we heed God's call to o - pen doors a - bove.
and set us on our home - ward way un - bul - lied and un - bound.
en - gen - dered here: wide o - pen rooms that of - fer pride of place.
till all who come are wel - come to the Lamb's own mar - riage feast.

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

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:

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually
reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our
confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

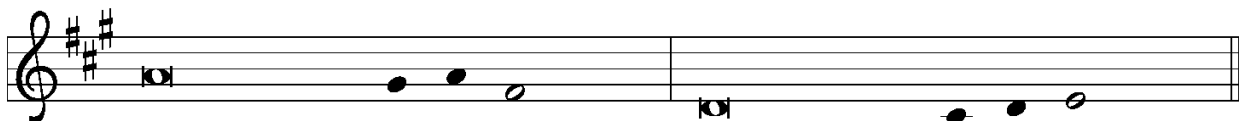
Amen.

Reconciling in Christ Sunday Greeting from Aubrey Thonvold, Director of Reconciling Works

Reading from the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

PSALM: 111



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.
- ²**Great are your | works, O Lord,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**
- ³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.
- ⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion.**
- ⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.
- ⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**
- ⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.
- ⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**
- ⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.
- ¹⁰**The fear of the Lord is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures forever.**

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon

HYMN: Rise O Church Like Christ Arisen, ELW 548



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



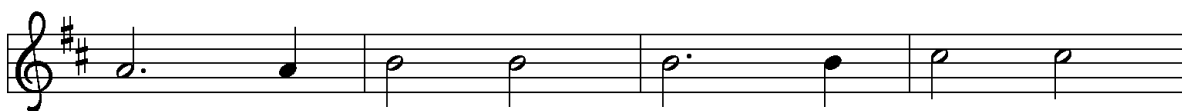
from this meal of love and grace;
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
 God has called us to re - ceive;
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion
 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.
 to re - lease and to con - sole.
 Spir - it - ed then let us live.
 from this day and un - to death.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



God, the won - der of our days.
 Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958
 Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Prayers of the People

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need, responding to each petition muted or un-muted with the words 'Your mercy is great'.

Let us pray for all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, pastor Kim, our president Scott, our council, and the reopening team. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We rejoice in our congregation's calling of Pastor Mark Sloss to lead us in our work of discipleship. Bless Pastor Mark and his family, the congregation at Faith Lutheran in Lexington, and our transition team in these days of pastoral change. In all the changes and challenges of our lives, and on this annual meeting Sunday, help us to experience the ways your love is leading and guiding us to new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for a calling to boundless love and justice on this Reconciling in Christ Sunday. May we follow Christ's example to see, name, and care for all whom we encounter. May your grace fill our words and actions, turning us away from the sins of homophobia, transphobia, and racism, to live for you and serve our neighbor. Soften hearts and expand our awareness today to share in the spirit of the Kin-dom of God, making the church a place where community is built to experience your intentional welcome for each and for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for relief from the pandemic. Bring meaningful work to those furloughed. Guide and watch over all first responders and essential workers. Surround with your presence family and friends who are anxious for those on the front lines of crisis. Inspire healthcare workers and medical researchers as we rejoice in the arrival of vaccines. Be a powerful presence with those in quarantine, those who feel isolated, and with all students, teachers and staff in academic communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need, especially Steve Andes, Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Laura Burdick, Mid Carlson, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Pat Helm, Jim Jung, John and Nancy, Judith Kratochvil, Gordon Larson, Elizabeth and Ernie's family, Elaine Nelson, Veronica Repasz, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, George Stewart, Leslie Thais, family and friends of Scott Weidler, and those whose names we call out to you here, muted or un-muted: . . . *A brief silence.* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

And now, siblings, for what else shall we pray, silent or spoken aloud? *A longer period of silence.* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

Offertory Anthem: Undivided Mystery by Mark Schweizer

We worship God with our offerings. We give thanks for those who support Immanuel's life and mission. [We invite you to do that online](#) or by mail, and with your presence, prayer, and talents.

Offertory Prayer

And now, as we unmute ourselves for the Great Thanksgiving we pray together:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to all be blessed.

Feed us with your living bread, that all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer at the Table

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our night,

revealing to us your mercy and power.

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.

Remembering, therefore,

his preaching and healing,

his dying and rising,

and his promise to come again,

we await that day when all the universe

will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

And for this we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,

that, refreshed with this heavenly food,

we may be light for the world,

revealing the brilliance of your Son.

And for this we pray: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever.

Amen

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion

Come for all things are now ready; the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

All communing may receive their bit of bread from God's hand, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All communing may drink of the cup they have prepared, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

For those fasting, receive this prayer of blessing in God's presence:

May God who loves you be truly present with the Spirit of grace, mercy and joy, uplifting and blessing you in the promise of your baptism.

Table Dismissal

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Benediction

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

Amen

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Coffee hour/Announcements

TODAY AT IMMANUEL

2021 Annual Meeting Follows Worship

Brief Council Meeting Follows Annual Meeting

RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY 2021

It's appropriate that on our annual meeting Sunday when we celebrate our core mission and purpose for gathering, that we also celebrate Reconciling in Christ Sunday. Immanuel has engaged an intentional welcome for members of the LGBTQIA+ community and adopted the following welcome statement:

*We **welcome** people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge. We **welcome** believers and questioners, and questioning believers.*

Reconciling Works, the organization that administers the RIC program, is also expanding the intentionality of welcome. See the next page for more information about expanded commitments to welcome.

MARTIN LUTHER ON TRIAL (Virtual Presentation) ENCORE: Today, 3 pm CT - FREE

[Register at https://mailchi.mp/fpatheatre.com/vmlot2021email](https://mailchi.mp/fpatheatre.com/vmlot2021email)

THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL

Midweek Gathering

7 pm Wednesday on zoom

Join us for gathering, discussion on next Sunday's scripture readings, and prayer.

Coffee and Connections Check in!

9:30 am Thursday on zoom hosted by Linda Edlund

Look for the link on the Midweek Gathering email

Quilters and Knitters

10:30 am Thursday on zoom

NEXT SUNDAY AT IMMANUEL

February 7th Service for Healing – our readings remind us of the Epiphany revelation of God's intention for the healing of the world through Jesus Christ. Our intercessions will be focused on our pleas for healing, and an assurance of God's healing power. You may prepare a small dish of oil if you would like to receive a sign of God's mercy with anointing.

LOOKING AHEAD AT IMMANUEL

- **February 14th** – Prepare your "Alleluia" – fancy or plain - for our Lenten farewell
- **February 17th** - Ash Wednesday Join us on zoom at 7 pm for worship
- **February 28th** - Pastor Kim's last Sunday is February 28th
- **March 1st** - Pastor Mark Sloss will be beginning his service at Immanuel. A transition team has been appointed to prepare the way for this new ministry. During these weeks, Pastor Sloss is focusing on the important work of leavetaking in his current congregation. *Before March 1, if there is something you want Pastor Sloss to know about, or ask him about a preference, please send the information to Scott Romans. He will pass it on to Pastor Mark.*



DEEPENING & EXPANDING OUR RIC COMMITMENTS

Since 1983, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church. The RIC Program is made up of congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, outdoor ministries, and other Lutheran organizations. Every ministry setting begins this journey from its own unique context and ReconcilingWorks is here to help you create an authentic welcome journey that is customized to your community.

The purpose of the RIC Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work, and support the national program.

Expanded RIC Partners Public Commitments:

- Your community explicitly states a welcome to *people of “all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions” or “LGBTQIA+”* and names its commitment to *racial equity or antiracism* in its welcome statement.
- *Open to calling* an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.
- Will allow community space/sanctuary to be used for LGBTQIA+ *weddings and blessings*.
- Will make a *meaningful contribution annually* to support the national RIC program.

Now is an important time for our RIC partners to review their Welcome Statement, make updates to meet the new expanded public commitments, and set new goals and milestones of justice work for your community to strive for.