

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Fifth Sunday of Easter † April 29 & May 2, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Now the Green Blade Rises*

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this

chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before

its shearer,
so he does not open his
mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was
denied him.

Who can describe his
generation?

For his life is taken away
from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom,
may I ask you, does the prophet say this,
about himself or about someone else?”

³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting
with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the
good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were
going along the road, they came to some

water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is
water! What is to prevent me from being
baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to
stop, and both of them, Philip and the
eunuch, went down into the water, and
Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up
out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord
snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him
no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as
he was passing through the region, he
proclaimed the good news to all the towns
until he came to Caesarea.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:25-31

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the Lord.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, “The | Lord has acted!”

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

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.**

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just 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. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,

because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P The Gospel of our Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Installation of Vanessa Kwiatkowski as Organist and Music Coordinator

P After prayerful deliberation, we are thrilled to welcome Vanessa as our Organist and Music Coordinator.

Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one invited to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

Vanessa, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Trusting in God's care, will you seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

C Amen.

People of God, will you receive Vanessa into this ministry as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ?

C We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

C We will, and we ask God to help us.

Vanessa, I now declare you installed as Organist and Music Coordinator.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.

C Amen.

Let us pray.

O God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: Strengthen and bless your servant Vanessa, who, through your gift of music, seeks to enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

People of God, I present to you Vanessa, your Organist and Music Coordinator

Let us welcome her in the name of Christ.

NICENE CREED

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS

A Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

A God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

(Thursday evening service continues with the Lord's Prayer)

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER

P Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you feed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Please wait for direction from the usher to receive communion. Then exit the elevator or south entryway.

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This week please hold in prayer: Karl & Oneta Wiechers, Mary Lou Zwiebel, Rick Ford, Paul Mowery, Juanita Clausen, Karen Fruth, Phyllis Wenner, Lorelee Jones, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

Communion will be offered the 1st Sunday of each month in worship and drive thru from 10-11am and the 3rd Thursday in worship. We invite you to bring your own elements for drive thru communion. You can use bread, crackers, or any ordinary substance for the body and wine, grape juice, other juice, or any celebratory drink for the blood. We will have prefilled communion kits available if needed. You will pull into the parking lot from Clinton Street and remain in your vehicle. I will be standing at the back corner of the building. When it's your turn, I will say a prayer and bless the elements and invite you to partake, then bless you! When you're done you can leave through the alley. If you aren't available during that time, feel free to set up a time throughout the week.

BIBLE STUDY: Next weeks readings are: First Reading: Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6, Gospel: John 15:9-17. Please join us weekly on Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom. We discuss the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Some guiding questions are: what sticks out, what are you noticing, and what is challenging you in this text. We have a lot of fun and learn some, too! We would love for you to join us! You can join host Carey Plummer and Pastor Janine Shearer a little before the hour by entering the following information on the Zoom page: Meeting #817 3901 3743 and Password: church12. No need to be a Bible scholar!! Just have your Bible handy!!

JOIN US in reading the New Testament in chronological order in 2021! This week's readings are:

May 2: Matthew 23

May 3: Matthew 24

May 4: Matthew 25

May 5: Matthew 26

May 6: Matthew 27

May 7: Matthew 28

May 8: Luke 1

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS AND TEACHERS

After much consideration, with so few weeks remaining in the current Sunday School year, the decision has been made to postpone Sunday School until the new year begins in the fall. More information will be sent out regarding the exact start date.

Please also keep a lookout for information regarding the community Vacation Bible School which will also be coming to you at a later date as well. On Sunday, May 23rd the 2nd grade Bible presentation will be held. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding this year as we have tried to navigate through things as safely as possible!

Offering

If you are interested, you may sign up for Simply Giving through Vanco by contacting treasurer Julie Kohout, or send your offering to Emanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545. **Please do not send cash in the mail!**

Available now, Mobile and OnLine Donations

GivePlus Mobile App

1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Find our church by our zip code **43545** or by searching for the name of our church.

GivePlus Online

1. Visit our website at **EmanuelNapoleon.org**
2. Locate the link Give at the top of the page.

You can make a one-time contribution or a recurring gift. Any questions, please contact Julie Kohout.

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AS YOU LEAVE CHURCH
PLEASE EXIT THE SOUTH DOORS FACING DOLLAR GENERAL
IF YOU USED THE ELEVATOR EXIT THROUGH THE ELEVATOR**

Plan of Return

We look forward to being in person for worship again soon!

Here are some reminders as we dream and move forward:

- Masks, distancing and hand hygiene are key!
- Get vaccinated when you can! If you need help registering, call the office M-Th 9-5 and we will help!
- If you have symptoms, stay home!
- Worship will be available online as well as in person.
- The HVAC has been set up and it is running continuously. When the fan is on the air is turned over frequently and goes through a filter as well as a UV light that was installed specifically to kill covid and other germs.
- Keep in mind that not everyone is vaccinated. This includes those who choose not to be vaccinated and those under age 16.
- Weddings and funerals will follow these worship guidelines.
- The Plan of Return team (Pastor Janine, Carey Plummer, Joe Kohout, Joe Knepley, Barb Hoffman, and Phyllis Kloos) will continue to meet to advise council when we move to the next phase.

PHASES

Phase 1:

Orange or April 29

- Masks required the whole service over mouth and nose
- Every other pew* used along with balcony distancing and overflow seating
- Stay home if sick
- Enter through North door or Elevator, exit through South door or elevator

Phase 2:

- Plan from Phase 1 remains
- Soloist can sing unmasked 9ft away from others
- Final hymn can be sung by masked congregation (with time for folks to leave before if uncomfortable with communal singing)
- Meetings of more than 10 people can happen- still masked and distanced

Phase 3

(we are far from this)

- Pass offering plate
- Handshakes for peace
- Coffee hour/potlucks
- Congregation sings all the hymns.
- Choirs return

When appropriate

- Doors unlocked during day
- Contact tracing list replaced by checking cameras
- Enter/Exit any door
- Soul Food- Fall start is goal

Why Now?

- We followed Bishop Daniel Beaudoin's guidance to "hold steady" in January and again in March. He invited us to dream forward in March and to connect with our Health Department. They have approved our plan.
- Anyone 16 and older who wants to be vaccinated can be, which adds an extra layer of protection.
- Henry County spread is happening mostly in small, unmasked gatherings. We are committed to masking, which keeps us safer.

*Every 3rd pew was used previously. We are shifting to every other pew. Pews are 5.5ft apart. Sit at an angle from the person in front of you to achieve 6ft distance.