



**Emmanuel**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

**11 AM Traditional Worship Service, April 28, 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Welcome Sunday!**

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Vienna, VA

Worship Livestream at  
[elcvienna.org](http://elcvienna.org)  
[facebook.com/elcvienna](https://facebook.com/elcvienna)  
[youtube.com/user/ELCVienna](https://youtube.com/user/ELCVienna)



# THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS US IN WORSHIP

## **Prelude**

Arla's choice.

## **Welcome**

*Good morning and welcome to worship at Emmanuel Lutheran Church! You can find bulletins and ways to give online at [elcvienna.org](http://elcvienna.org). We invite newcomers to our welcome table outside the sanctuary after worship.*

Pastor: Thanks for joining us on this Welcome Church Sunday! Today we will learn a little about each part as we worship together. During the service, we will sit, stand, sing, and respond with "Amen." Please do so as you are able and feel comfortable. Everything you need to follow along will be projected on the screen.

We call upon God as we begin our worship together. The invocation is an invitation, and today reminds us that we are in the season of Easter. Please rise....

## **Invocation**

Pastor: In this holy season of Easter, we are gathered in the name of the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: We will sing songs or listen to music at different times, relating to the theme of the Bible readings to help us reflect on God's words to us. Our opening hymn is....

## **Gathering Hymn**

All Are Welcome

ELW 641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

## **Refrain**

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*

3 Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*

5 Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Onelicense.net 00004.

## **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Pastor: The gathering part of worship includes either a time of confession and forgiveness or giving thanks for the gift of baptism, often used during seasons like Easter. Today, we celebrate the gift of baptism....

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our life and our joy.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection, you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## **Hymn of Praise**

Pastor: We continue our worship with the Hymn of Praise, a joyful refrain that reminds us that we join with all of creation to sing praises to God. Through the season of Easter, we have been singing....

Christ has Arisen, Alleluia ELW 364 v. 1 and refrain

1. Christ has arisen, alleluia.  
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.  
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,  
even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922. Onelicense.net 94901.

**GOD'S WORD CALLS US TO DISCIPLESHIP**

## **Acts 8:26-40**

Pastor: We now listen while God speaks to us in the words of the Bible. Readings are chosen from a three-year cycle called the Revised Common Lectionary and often include readings from the Old Testament, a Psalm, the New Testament, and the Gospel.

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter eight.

Reader: <sup>26</sup>An 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.) <sup>27</sup>So 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 <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now 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.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup>As 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?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When 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. <sup>40</sup>But 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.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Psalm 22:25-31**

Reader: A reading from Psalm 22.

Reader: <sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.  
May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.

**<sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the LORD,**

<sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **1 John 4:7-21**

Reader: A reading from the letter to the first letter of John, chapter 4.

Reader: <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In 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. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So 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. <sup>17</sup>Love 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. <sup>18</sup>There 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. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those 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. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **Children's Message**

*Children are invited to Bible storytelling time in the chapel following the children's message and will return to the sanctuary after the message.*

Pastor: This is a special time in the service when we remember that Jesus loved and taught children. We are all children of God and are encouraged to be curious about our faith!

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW 595

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Pastor: We stand for the Gospel reading out of respect for Jesus's words and actions. We sing to express our joy and readiness to listen. Sometimes, a sung response is added after the Gospel so that we will remain standing after it is read. Together, we sing...

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

ELW 367

1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds

in praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Augsburg Fortress SAS000364. Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

## **John 15:1-8**

Pastor: The good news of Jesus Christ according to the gospel of Saint John, the fifteenth chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Pastor: [Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide 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. <sup>5</sup>I 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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord!

**All: Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **Gospel Response**

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds  
ELW 367

- 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
set heart and will on things above  
that we conquer through your triumph;  
grant grace sufficient for life's day  
that by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Augsburg Fortress SAS000364. Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.



## **Message**

“Connected to Jesus” based upon John 15 by Pastor Lydia Posselt

## **Hymn of the Day**

Pastor: The Hymn of the day is the congregation’s response to the themes of the sermon and the scripture text. Together we sing....

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly  
ELW 461

1 All who hunger gather gladly;  
holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.  
Here in truth we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness,  
all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

2 All who hunger, never strangers;  
seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here in joy we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered  
in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

3 All who hunger, sing together,  
Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here in peace we have been fed.  
Blest are those who from this table  
live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993. Onelicense.net 93815.

## **The Nicene Creed**

Pastor: The creeds, written in the church's early years, are said together as a community to reflect who we are and what we believe as Christians.

Pastor: We confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**All: 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 of Intercession**

Leader: We pray together for all needs: church concerns, care of creation, national and global conflicts, those who are vulnerable or sick, those who serve us, and loved ones who have died and joined with God. Our communal prayers end with the Passing of the Peace when we are encouraged to emulate the peace of Jesus with one another before offering and communion. Let us pray...

Leader: Renewing God, give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb, and inspire us to share your abundant life. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

Leader: Sustaining God, provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and plentiful rain for the growth of plants and the nourishment of all creation. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

Leader: Sheltering God, empower government agencies and international organizations that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

Leader: Encouraging God, send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. We pray for... Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

Leader: Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ. Thank you for blessing us with faithful witnesses who now rest in you. Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

Leader: We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

**All: Amen.**

## **Peace**

Leader: May the peace of the risen Lord be with you always!

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share God's peace.

## **Offering**

Leader: Our gifts of money symbolize our giving of ourselves to Christ and the ministries of the church. We offer ourselves in grateful response, and this giving includes our property, praise, talents, and time.

*Offerings in support of our mission and ministry can be made at [www.elcvienna.org/give](http://www.elcvienna.org/give) or mailed to the church. Ushers will take the offering in person. Every gift matters!*

## **Offering Music**

Arla's choice.

# **THE LORD'S MEAL GIVES US GRACE AND LIFE**

## **Holy Communion**

Pastor: Early on, the Christian community devoted themselves to breaking bread together. In Communion, Lutherans celebrate Christ's actual and mysterious presence in bread and wine. Our communion liturgy includes hearing the words Jesus at the Last Supper, and praying together the prayer Jesus taught his disciples.

Pastor: We remember that in the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Pastor: And 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**All: 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.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the children of God—come, all are welcome!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **Communion Instructions**

*All are invited to come forward to receive communion or a blessing. Wafers will be dipped in wine and handed to you. If you prefer a wafer without wine, please let us know. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. We have goldfish and a blessing for our non-communing children. You are also welcome to pray at the communion rail after you have been communed.*

### **Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)**

Lamb of God, Setting 4

ELW S 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Music

Arla's choice.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS US IN MISSION INTO THE WORLD

### Invitation to Ministry

*As the Spirit leads us out into mission in the world, we invite you to join us in our ministries. We invite our newcomers to stop by the welcome table just outside the sanctuary to connect and learn more about the work of our congregation.*

Pastor: Now that we have been fed with God's word and with the body and blood of Jesus, we are sent out into the world by the Holy Spirit, strengthened to be bearers of this good news, encouraged with the blessing, sending hymn, and final dismissal. Please rise....

### Blessing

Pastor: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Spirit bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms  
ELW 774

- 1     What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
      leaning on the everlasting arms;  
      what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
      leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

Leaning, leaning, (Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, (leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

- 2     Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
      leaning on the everlasting arms;  
      oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
      leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

- 3     What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
      leaning on the everlasting arms?  
      I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
      leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929. Onelicense.net 95070.

**Dismissal**

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

Arla's choice.

**Thank you so much for worshipping with us!**

**Our Mission and Vision**

Our mission is to nurture, grow, and share our Christian faith as Lutherans in a multicultural world. We envision Emmanuel Lutheran Church as a welcoming, vibrant, growing, and faith-filled Christian community whose participants generously share their time, talents, and resources in a changing world.

## **Our Welcome Statement**

Emmanuel Lutheran Church welcomes all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome and affirm full participation by all because God welcomes all, regardless of race, culture, national origin, citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, relationship or socio-economic status, addictions, physical or mental health, disability, imprisonment, age, or other circumstances. OUR UNITY IS IN CHRIST.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church gathers upon the ancestral lands of the Manahoac people. Find out more about the Manahoac at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manahoac>.

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