



*Easter*

*Because He Lives!*

**Easter 4**


We know Jesus is trustworthy  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
May 11, 2025

## Welcome!

We are honored that you are with us today. May the Word of God that you hear strengthen your faith and increase your desire to serve the Lord! If you are a guest today, we are thankful you have joined us. We hope that you will join us again soon.

### For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

- **Restrooms** are to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Nursery.** There is a room where children may be quieted to the left down the hall across from the bathrooms as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Children's worship notes** are available. Ask an usher.
- **Hearing assistance.** A hearing loop is available in the worship area for hearing aids equipped with a T-coil. 

If there is any other way in which we can assist you, let us know.

The service is streamed live online at [elctempe.org/worship](http://elctempe.org/worship).

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit [elctempe.org](http://elctempe.org).



#### Connection card

*During the offering  
we ask that you  
complete an online  
connection card.*

## Easter 4 — May 11, 2025

### Because He Lives: We know Jesus is trustworthy

The world is full of talkers. There are plenty of people who say they care about you, but we know what many of those people will do when it's time to put those words into action.

Jesus tells you that he cares for you dearly, that he would do anything for you, that he's leading you into the green pastures of paradise. How do you know you can trust him?

Simple. Jesus followed up his words with action. Jesus promised he would die to save you from your sin. He did. Scripture promised the Savior would rise from the dead, proving that payment for sins was complete. It happened.

Jesus always does what he says. His every promise is fulfilled. Jesus once illustrated that point in a striking metaphor — that of the Good Shepherd. All shepherds use words, calling to the sheep hoping they will follow. What sets the Good Shepherd apart is the fact that his words are followed by action, including his willingness to lay down his life for his sheep.

Because he lives, we know Jesus is trustworthy and true.

# Service of the Word and Sacrament



## Pre-Service Music

**My Shepherd Will Supply My Need**

Dale Wood

**Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

Dale Wood, Carol Tornquist

**Crown Him with Many Crowns**

George J. Elvey

## Opening Hymn

*Please stand for the final stanza.*

**511 Crown Him with Many Crowns**

*This hymn was the hymn of the week in our Lutheran grade school.*

## Invocation

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*During our services, the congregation speaks the responses in bold.*

## Confession

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

## Absolution

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,  
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we  
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your  
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
peo - ple on earth. For you a -

lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,  
 with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his  
 peo - ple on earth.

## The Word

### Salutation

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## First Reading

Acts 13:15,16a,26-39

*St. Paul points out that Jesus' death and resurrection both fulfilled the Scripture. They prove not only that we are forgiven, but that God's promises are trustworthy and true.*

<sup>15</sup>After the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Gentlemen, brothers, if you have a word of encouragement for the people, say it."

<sup>16</sup>Then Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said, "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.

<sup>26</sup>"Gentlemen, brothers, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you. <sup>27</sup>The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the statements of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>Though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup>When they carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup>But God raised him from the dead, <sup>31</sup>and for many days he was seen by those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These same individuals are now his witnesses to the people.

<sup>32</sup>"We are preaching to you the good news about the promise that was made to our fathers. <sup>33</sup>God has fulfilled this promise for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:

You are my Son.  
Today I have begotten you.

<sup>34</sup>"That God would raise him from the dead never again to be subject to decay, God said in this way:

I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.

<sup>35</sup>"Therefore he also says in another place:

You will not let your Holy One see decay.

<sup>36</sup>"For David, after he had served God's purpose in his own generation, fell asleep, was laid to rest with his fathers, and saw decay. <sup>37</sup>But the One God raised did not see decay.

<sup>38</sup>"So, gentlemen, brothers, let it be known to you that through this Jesus forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you, also forgiveness from everything from which you could not be justified through the law of Moses. <sup>39</sup>In this Jesus, everyone who believes is justified.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm of the Day

Psalm 23  
Francis O'Brien

*The minister sings the first verse. Join him on each refrain and verses 2-3.*

## Verses



1. My shep-herd is the Lord, for noth-ing shall I want;  
2. If I should walk one day in - to the vale of dark-ness,  
3. You a-noint my head with oil; my cup is o-ver-flow-ing;



green are the pas-tures where I'm led to re - pose.  
no e - vil shall I fear with God at my side.  
good - ness and kind - ness crown the days of my life.



Near wa-ters still and deep God will re - fresh my soul.  
There with your crook and staff you give me strength and com-fort;  
With - in the Lord's own house I dwell in peace for ev - er;



I am led on-ward in ways true to the Name.  
you spread a ban-quet in the sight of my foes.  
with - in the house of God my soul is at rest.

## Refrain



Guide me, O shep-herd of my heart; lead me home-ward through the



dark, in-to ev-er-last-ing, day. Show me the way of truth and



light; keep me al-ways in your sight. May my life nev-er



part from the shep-herd of my heart.

## Second Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

*God's promise to lead all believers from great tribulation to the green pastures of heaven is trustworthy and true. St. John sees that promise fulfilled through the work of the Lamb.*

<sup>9</sup>After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They called out with a loud voice and said:

Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.

<sup>11</sup>All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>saying:

Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>13</sup>One of the elders spoke to me and said, "These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?"

<sup>14</sup>And I answered him, "Sir, you know."

And he said to me:

These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>Because of this they are in front of the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. <sup>16</sup>They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again. The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat, <sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

**All sing:**





## **Gospel**

**John 10:22–30**

<sup>22</sup>Then the Festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple area in Solomon's Colonnade.

<sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around Jesus, asking, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

<sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I am doing in my Father's name testify about me. <sup>26</sup>But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep, as I said to you. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

*Because our Good Shepherd is trustworthy and true, we eagerly listen to his voice.*

## **Hymn of the Day**

**551 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep**

## **Sermon**

**John 10:22-30**

***Jesus is your trustworthy shepherd***

*Please stand.*

## **Nicene Creed**

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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

## **Prayer of the Church**

### **Lord's Prayer**

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

*Be seated.*

### **Offering**

#### **Musical Offering**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
Raymond H. Haan

#### **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**

*As you prepare to receive the Sacrament today, you may use the Christian Questions on page 295 in your blue hymnal or Personal Preparation on page 19 of this service folder.*

*Please stand.*

# The Sacrament

## Preface

CW 183

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -  
san - na in the high - est!

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Jesus, Lamb of God

**Agnus Dei**

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

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

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

*Be seated.*

## Distribution

*For our distribution today, you may approach the altar using the side aisles. The two sides will meet at the bottom step in the middle. For those who prefer a low-gluten wafer, please indicate such to the pastor when he distributes the host. The low-gluten wafers are in a soufflé cup on the paten. The grape-colored cups in each tray are alcohol-removed wine. We will dismiss down the center aisle.*

## Distribution Hymns

831 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me  
793 Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me

*Please stand.*

## Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## Closing Hymn (Monday)

793 Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me

## Post-Service Music

Sheep May Safely Graze

J.S. Bach

Shepherd of Love

Marilyn Arison

## Serving at Worship

Preaching Minister  
Presiding Minister  
Organ (Sunday)  
Piano (Monday)  
Video streamer and slides  
Video captions  
Sound  
Hymn selections  
Acolyte

Pastor Chris Pflughoeft  
Pastor Gary Pufahl  
Kurt Rosenbaum  
Noah Gruman  
Jacob Sallquist, Jacob Pufahl  
Angie Keezer  
George Willis  
Sara Redman  
Colton Sallquist (8:00 a.m.)

## Acknowledgments

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## In our prayers

- Seth Meyer – Recovering from a car accident.
- Thanks and praise to God for the much-needed rain.



*Emmanuel usher  
sign-up.*

## Ushers

8:00 a.m.

Joe Beatrice, Craig Kiecker, Jon Rossman

10:30 a.m.

Matt Carrigan, Caden Head, Mike Richey, Tristan Richey

## Flowers

Thank you to Lon and Miriam Meyer for beautifying our sanctuary with altar flowers in honor of Lon's 90th birthday.

## Communion

Thank you to Rachel Severeid and Rikki Willis for helping set up Communion for the weekend.

## Landscaping

Thank you to Kevin and Martha Wenzel for helping maintain, trim and clean the outside church property this week.

## **This week at Emmanuel**

### **Sunday**

Mother's Day  
Online live-streamed service 8:00 a.m.  
In-person services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study 9:15 a.m.  
Public school catechism 12:00 p.m.

### **Monday**

ASU campus ministry No meeting this week  
*Meetings resume in August*  
Monday night worship service 6:30 p.m.  
Monday night Bible study in the MEC 7:40 p.m.  
*Book of Mark*  
*Led by Pastor Chris Pflughoeft*

### **Wednesday**

Wednesday Bible study in the MEC 8:30 a.m.  
*The Book of the Twelve*  
*Led by Pastor Chris Pflughoeft*  
Adult choir in the MEC 6:30 p.m.  
School Board meeting 6:30 p.m.

### **Thursday**

Thursday Bible study at Denny's, Broadway and Priest, Tempe 6:00 a.m.  
*Life Applications from Genesis 1-11*  
*Led by Pastor Dan Pautz*  
Confirmation Examination 6:30 p.m.  
Bible Basics in the MEC 6:30 p.m.  
*Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz*

### **Friday**

ELS chapel 8:30 a.m.  
ELS early release 1:50 p.m.  
ELS Spring Concert 6:30 p.m.

### **Sunday, May 18**

Confirmation Sunday  
Worship services 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.  
*Confirmation during 8:00 a.m. service*  
In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study No classes  
Confirmation reception in the MEC 9:15 a.m.

## Looking ahead

May 19	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Monday night Bible study in the MEC	No class this week
May 20	Church Council meeting	6:00 p.m.
May 21	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	<i>The Book of the Twelve</i> <i>Led by Pastor Chris Pflughoeft</i>	
	ELS - Last day of school	Noon dismissal
	ELS 8th grade graduation service	7:00 p.m.
May 22	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>Life Applications from Genesis 1-11</i> <i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i> <i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	ELS End-of-the-Year party	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
	Fundraiser at Culver's	5:00-8:00 p.m.
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>	
	ALA Commencement Concert	7:00 p.m.
	<i>at Arizona Lutheran Academy</i>	
May 23	ELS - Summer break begins	No school
May 25	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
May 26	Memorial Day	Church office closed
	Monday night worship service	6:30 p.m.
	Monday night Bible study in the MEC	No class this week
May 27	Early Childhood Vacation Bible School	9:00-11:00 a.m.
May 28	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	<i>The Book of the Twelve</i> <i>Led by Pastor Chris Pflughoeft</i>	
	Early Childhood Vacation Bible School	9:00-11:00 a.m.
May 29	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>Life Applications from Genesis 1-11</i> <i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i> <i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	Early Childhood Vacation Bible School	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>	
May 31	Invitation handout	9:00-10:30 a.m.
June 1	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.



# Notes and News

## Connection cards

The connection cards have a valuable purpose in helping us serve you better. We ask all our worshipers to help us serve you by scanning the QR code, by going to [elctempe.org/connect](http://elctempe.org/connect), or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!



### Connection card

*During the offering we ask that you complete an online connection card.*

## Meal Train for the Meyer family

A meal train has been set up to help the Meyer family while Seth continues to be treated at Banner University Medical Center. Meals can be delivered at the front entrance of the hospital (1111 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix) between 5:00-5:30 p.m.; please include plates and utensils if possible. Please note, meals need to arrive ready-to-eat as there is no access to microwaves, ovens, or refrigerators. To schedule delivery, contact either Ben at (480) 295-6298 or Hannah at (480) 246-9028. You can view more information and sign up to provide a meal using the QR code or this link: <https://mealtrain.com/y5ndml>. Thank you for your continued prayers for Seth's healing and support to the family. You are invited to view updates on Seth Meyer and to share your prayers, pictures, thoughts, or encouragement; go to [prayersforseth.com](http://prayersforseth.com).



*Meal Train sign-up*

## Baby bottle offerings

Mother's Day is today and Father's Day is June 15. We have an opportunity to support two great ministries: 1) New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers and 2) Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center.

Here's what we can do:

- Pray that the people in these ministries can touch the lives of others with the gospel.
- Take a baby bottle home with you (you can take more than one).
- Fill the baby bottle with your cash, change, or checks (checks made out to Emmanuel Lutheran Church).
- Bring the baby bottle(s) back to church between now and June 15.

We will give 50% of the offerings to New Beginnings and 50% to Alpha.

## Early Childhood Vacation Bible School (ECE VBS)

Children entering three-year-old kindergarten (3K) through Kindergarten can sign up for this year's ECE VBS from May 27 to May 29. The theme for this year is "Australian Adventure." Learn more at [elctempe.org/vbs](http://elctempe.org/vbs).



*Sign up for ECE VBS*

## Summer Art Camp

Join Mrs. Amber Bode as she delivers a week of artistic fun under the theme: *Art through the Holidays*. This camp is June 9-13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for current 1st through 4th graders in the art studio at Emmanuel Lutheran School. Due to the cost of supplies, the camp fee is \$115. RSVP at (480) 694-4698 by this Thursday, May 15. This camp isn't for the paint of heart!

## Emmanuel family nights

This summer we will be hosting four Emmanuel Family Nights, when families can gather for a meal, a devotion, and a fun activity. These will be held on Wednesdays in the summer: June 11, June 25, July 9, and July 23. Learn more at [elctempe.org/familynights](http://elctempe.org/familynights).

## **Sweatshirts needed**

Emmanuel Ladies' Group (*WOW, Women of the Word*) is collecting non-hooded, adult sized sweatshirts through the month of May. Banner University's behavioral health department is in need of sweatshirts for their patients. Now is a great time to clear out your closet and go through those winter items. If you have any non-hooded, adult sized sweatshirts you no longer need, please consider donating them. Sweatshirts can be dropped off at the church office, or given to Alysha Bergsma, with a note "*WOW donation.*"

## **Christian education hour**

Here is a list of our classes, topics, and locations for our Sunday morning education hour.

The **Adult Bible study** is meeting in the Oak Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is "The Gospel according to John."

The **Table Talk** is meeting in the Olive Room of the Ministry and Education Center (MEC). The study topic today is "We believe, therefore we speak."

The **Teen Bible study Grades 9-12** is meeting in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "Because He Lives: We know Jesus is trustworthy."

The **Junior High Bible study Grades 7-8** is meeting in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom on the second floor of the MEC. The study topic today is "Because He Lives: We know Jesus is trustworthy."

The Sunday School for **Grades 4-6** is meeting in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "Peter and John heal a man who can't walk."

The Sunday School for **Grades 1-3** is meeting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "Peter and John heal a man who can't walk."

The Sunday School for **4K Preschool-Kindergarten** is meeting in the kindergarten classroom at the south campus. The study topic today is "Peter and John heal a man who can't walk."

The Sunday School for **two- and three-year-olds** is meeting in the preschool classrooms at the south campus. Parents are encouraged to remain with their children. The study topic today is "Jesus teaches Mary and Martha."

The **MUMs Group** is meeting in the nursery. Mothers and their children under 2 years are welcome to join for a devotion and fellowship.

# Personal preparation for Holy Communion

*The following questions for self-examination (adapted from various sources) may be helpful as you prepare to receive the Sacrament.*

As we prepare to partake of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is appropriate that we diligently examine ourselves, as St Paul exhorts us. For this Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But if we thus examine ourselves, we find nothing in ourselves but sin and death, from which we can in no way set ourselves free. Therefore our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy upon us and has taken upon himself our nature, so that he might fulfill the whole will and law of God and for us and for our deliverance suffer death and all that we by our sins have deserved. In order that we should more confidently believe this and be strengthened in faith and cheerful obedience to his holy will, he has instituted the holy Sacrament of his Supper, in which he feeds us with his body and gives us to drink of his blood.

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup firmly believing the words of Christ, lives in Christ and Christ in him, and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of him, proclaiming his death – that he was delivered over for our sins and raised to life for our justification. Then with thankful hearts we commit ourselves again to take up our cross and follow him, keep his commandments, and love one another as he has loved us.

*As you examine yourself, consider these questions before God, who searches the heart:*

Q: Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved his wrath and punishment?

A: *Truly you should confess, for Holy Scripture declares, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*

Q: Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and action?

A: *Truly you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the woman caught in adultery; the prodigal son; and others.*

Q: Do you sincerely believe that God, by his grace, for Jesus' sake, forgives you all your sins?

A: *Truly you should believe, for Holy Scripture declares, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

Q: Do you promise that with the help of the Holy Spirit you will from this time forward amend your sinful life?

A: *Truly you should so promise, for Holy Scripture declares, "No one who lives in him keeps on sinning," and Jesus himself declares, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."*

Personal prayer:

Lord Jesus, as a penitent sinner filled with joy and gratitude, I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of love and kindness to others. Amen.

*A person should examine himself before eating of the bread and drinking from the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment (1 Corinthians 11:28,29,31).*



# About Us

**E**mmanuel Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus and the truth of his saving Word with the people in our church, our community and the world.

The objectives of our mission are:

- To **preach**, by proclaiming the Word of God, as we worship and praise God in a loving Christian atmosphere;
- To **teach**, by fostering an ongoing increase in knowledge and maturity in God's Word;
- To **reach**, by sharing the Gospel of God's Word with all people, and to do so;
- By **each** member actively participating in our ministry.

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**E**mmanuel Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

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