

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024



Immanuel Lutheran Church

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

346 Shrewsbury Street

Holden, Massachusetts 01520

(508) 829-4416

www.immanuelholden.org

facebook.com/immanuelholden

instagram.com/ilcholden

*our purpose is to gather people, nurture faith,
grow in God's love, and serve God's world*

Welcome to Immanuel!

We're thankful you're with us this morning! Throughout worship we'll use the red hymnal located on the back of the pew in front of you. Page numbers can be found towards the front of the hymnal at the bottom of the page, with hymns towards the back, beginning with the Psalms. Hearing assist devices are also available – just ask an usher for help.

We believe that the Gospel – the Good News that we are loved, forgiven, and free in Christ – is a gift offered to every person, and that God's grace has no limits or conditions. Through Christ, we are made a community that shares God's mission to proclaim grace and peace to all the world.

Prelude

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

stand

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Amen.

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 the waters of life. 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. 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.

Amen.

sit

Celebration Song *This Is My Commandment* Traditional
This is my commandment that you love one another,
 that your joy may be full. (repeat)
That your joy may be full. (repeat)

Children's Chat

stand

Hymn of Praise *I Come with Joy* Hymn 482

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

sit

Word

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

First Reading Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know

that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome,⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

stand

Gospel Acclamation

p. 102

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:]⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you.¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

Sermon

Pastor Sarah Barnes

stand

Hymn of the Day *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* Hymn 367

Apostles' Creed

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

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

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

sit

Offertory Anthem

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

K. L. Scott

stand

Offertory Cantic

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Offering Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

p. 107

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

p. 108

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

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.

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

sit

All people are invited to receive communion today by coming forward to the front of the sanctuary. First, you'll receive bread, which is the body of Christ given for you. Then move to the next station, where you will find glass cups full of grape juice (lighter-colored) and wine (purple-colored), which is the blood of Christ shed for you. At the last station, return your empty cup to the tray. Gluten-free wafers are also available; to indicate you'd like to receive one, please simply raise your pointer finger when it's your turn to receive.

Lamb of God

p. 112

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,
grant us peace.**

Communion Hymn

Beautiful Savior

Hymn 838

Jesus Loves Me!

Hymn 595

Prayer after Communion

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

stand

Blessing

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Hymn 836

Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

Ministers – the people of Immanuel

Pastors – Pastor Sarah Barnes

203-518-0327 | pastor.sarah@immanuelholden.org

Pastor Josh Ferris

360-244-9207 | pastor.josh@immanuelholden.org

Parish Administrator – Jen Langhill (M-Th)

508-829-4416 | office@immanuelholden.org

Music Director – Claire W. Paquette | music@immanuelholden.org

Nursery School Directors – Amy Drzik, Kristine Whittemore

Sexton – Don Roberts

Online Ministry Coordinator – Jennifer Greene

We're thankful for these servants in worship today:

Livestream – Josh Greene, Sonya Imperio

Assisting Minister – Mary Donev

Ushers – Craig Landquist, Jim Anderson

Acolyte – Molly Ellis

Greeter – Barbara Schuh

Children's Word – Kathy Cranson, Jen Greene

Coffee Hour – Beth & Fred Borchelt

Altar Guild – Mary Jane Rasku, Heidi Lahey, Gabe Ellis

Counting Team – Greta & Scott Gridley

Worship, Service, and Fellowship in the week ahead:

Today	8:00 am	Simple Church (indoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream worship (in sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (in gym)
	10:30 am	Learning Hour
Monday	8:00 am	Lectio Divina (on Zoom)
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Spirituality for the Home Stretch (Choir Room)
Wednesday	6:45 pm	CLNS Board Meeting
Thursday	10:30 am	Bible Study (on Zoom)
Saturday	7:00 am	Men's Ministry
	8:00 am	Boy Scout Yard Sale (upper parking lot)
Sunday	8:00 am	Simple Church (indoor Chapel/Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Indoor & Livestream Worship (in sanctuary)
	10:15 am	Coffee Hour (in gym)
	10:30 am	Learning Hour

Daily Bible Readings for the Coming Week:

Monday:	Psalm 93, Deuteronomy 7:1-11, 1Timothy 6:11-12
Tuesday:	Psalm 93, Deuteronomy 11:1-17, 1Timothy 6:13-16
Wednesday:	Psalm 93, Deuteronomy 11:18-21, Mark 16:19-20
Thursday:	Ascension of Our Lord
Friday:	Psalm 47, Exodus 24:15-18, Revelation 1:9-18
Saturday:	Psalm 47, Deuteronomy 34:1-7, John 16:4-11
Sunday:	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

Welcome to Immanuel

Thanks for joining us in worship today! Wherever you are, we're glad to have you with us. Remember you can reach out to the church office anytime if you need help, prayer, or someone to talk to.

Children's Word – After the Children's Chat, our young friends are invited to go with our volunteers to the gym to worship in their own way. Kids will return in time for communion.

Coffee Hour – All are welcome to join us for coffee hour in the gym following today's 9:00am worship. We thank the Borchelts for hosting!

Beverly School of Kenya Presentation – During coffee hour, Kathy Mills and Bonnie Colon will share experiences from their recent trip to the Beverly School of Kenya. Join us in the gym during coffee hour to hear about their trip, see amazing pictures, and learn more about the school.

Godly Play – Our youngest learners are invited to stay in coffee hour for the Kenya presentation and/or join Pastor Sarah in classroom 2. This month we're learning how God works in the world through the church.

Meal Packaging – Volunteers are needed for our Meal Packaging Event on Saturday, May 18. Check-in starts at 1:30pm, and the packing starts at 2:00pm! There's lots of fun and work for people of all ages! To sign-up, use this link (<https://tinyurl.com/42vahxbk>) or the QR code here. There's also a paper sign-up in Lawson Hall. Contact Elaine Vetter with any thoughts or questions at etvetter@yahoo.com.



Centennial Capital Campaign – So far we have received 80 commitments to the Capital Campaign! Thank you for your generosity! We are still receiving commitment forms. You can bring them to the church office or place them in the offering plate by Sunday, May 26 to be included in the total we share on Sunday, June 2.

Lectio Divina – Join us on Monday mornings from 8:00–8:30am on Zoom. Lectio Divina is the practice of reading scripture as a form of prayer. (Meeting ID: 854 5947 2625 Passcode: 684195).

Thursday Morning Bible Study – We invite you to join us this Thursday at 10:30am on Zoom as we continue talking about the Gospel of John. Here’s the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84825798597>.

Women’s Circle – Women’s Circle will gather again on Monday, May 13 at 9:30am in Room 5 (the room behind the kitchen.) Ellen Friend and Linda Kiefer are providing refreshments. Jane English is leading devotions.

Book Club – For the month of May, we’re reading *My Life in Five Senses* by Gretchen Rubin. Come discuss with us on Thursday, May 23 at 6:00pm.

Communion Kits – Personal communion kits are located in the wooden trunk outside of Lawson Hall for those communing at home.

Stephen Ministry – Our Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential, one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life. Please let one of the pastors know if you or someone you know could benefit from talking to a Stephen Minister.

IHN Fundraiser and Hosting – In the Hour of Need Family Shelter's biggest fundraiser, the Evening of Hope is Friday, May 10, 2024, at Brick Box Theater, 20 Franklin Street, Worcester. The evening's MC is Hank Stolz and includes performances by Cara Brindisi, Rob Joyce, Hip Swayers and Sheri Linn, and an online auction. Theater tickets are \$75, Livestream \$45. For tickets or sponsorship information go to ihnworchester.org.

We’ll host again May 26 – June 1. You can sign up to help serve here: <https://tinyurl.com/2vmbu6bk>.

New Members – On Sunday, May 19, we will receive new members during our 9:00am worship service. If you're interested in being a member at Immanuel, please reach out to one of the pastors.

Senior Luncheon – Save the date! Join us on Thursday, May 23 for a Senior Luncheon! Sign-up sheet is in Lawson Hall (or call the church office). We're asking for a \$10/pp donation to cover the food. Menu is baked pasta, sides, coffee & dessert. Join us and invite a friend!

Dismas Farm meal – Our next time to serve a meal (for 13 gentlemen) at Dismas Farm in Oakham is on Thursday, May 30. Coordinator Deborah Sillo is asking for: sautéed peppers and onions (or whatever mix you choose, e.g., can add mushrooms, carrots etc), rice or rice pilaf, meatloaf, salad, fruit salad, and baked goods. Deborah will be picking up the food at the church on Wednesday the 29th at 3:30 pm and delivering it a day early. If you can help, look for the paper sign-up sheet posted at church early-May. For questions, please reach out to Deb at sgdsillo@gmail.com.

Nancy Robinson Services – All are invited to attend visiting hours today, May 5 from 2:00pm until 4:00pm at Fay Brothers Life Funeral Home (1 West Boylston Street, West Boylston) and funeral service held on Monday, May 6 at 11:30am at the Oakdale Methodist Church (15 North Main Street, West Boylston).

In Your Prayers this Week

This week, please lift up to God those who have requested our prayers:

David Alward, Bruce Axelson, Isaac Barron, Mary Beams, Jane Bedard, Heide & Bob, Grace Bialecki, Lucy & Tom Brennan, Ken Cameron, Ed & the Clarke family, Ann Marie Cole, Ben Cranson, Colleen Davison, Barbara Demont, Jaeger Dziama, Jim Eisenlord, Alan Farmer, Bev Gingras, Joan Greene, Bill, Dolores Hadady, Marilyn Hildick, Erika, Robin Johns, Ken Johnson, Mackenzie Keogh, Sara Kern, Carole Laino, Samantha Lampron, Bev Landquist, Jean Lane, Jeannie Larson, Jeff Larson, Meghan MacDonald, Joe Martire, Bob Mellor, James Mellor, Joanne Neal, Francis Parretti, Shirley, the Poissot family, Kay Porter, Jeff, Wylla Rabeler, Kathy Richardson, Ray Rossetti, Shirley Rotti, Donald Shefer, Wendy, Diane Smith, Shirley Smith, Brad Sweet, Maria and Patrick Taylor, Will, Elaine Vetter, Donna Vilian, Liz Wilson, Jim Zelesky, Don and Jill Zitzewitz.