

# *Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

## *February 23, 2025*

WELCOME TO EMANUEL

**Whoever you are, wherever you are from,  
we're glad you're here!**



- If you are here for the first time, please make a **nametag** for yourself in the Welcome Area (located outside the entrance to the worship space) so we can greet you by name. Please provide your **contact information**, either in our guestbook on the desk in the Welcome Area or by using this QR code, so that we can keep in communication with you.
- **Restrooms** are located downstairs outside our fellowship space, Luther Hall. You can use the elevator or the stairs to get to the lower level. Please join us for **refreshments** in Luther Hall following the service.
- **Hearing assistance devices** and **pew cushions** are available in the Welcome Area.
- **Children are always welcome at worship at Emanuel! Children's bulletins** and **activity bags** are available in the Welcome Area. If you need more space for your child to move about, feel free to bring them into the Welcome Area to give them room to be active. If you prefer, **supervised childcare** for children ages 6 months to 4 years is provided in our Nursery downstairs in Luther Hall.
- **Sunday School** for children in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade takes place during worship, September through May, and your child is welcome to participate. Sunday School teachers and students depart downstairs for class after the Prayer of the Day and return to worship in time for Holy Communion.
- All are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. Gluten free wafers are available as an option on the small silver tray held by the assistant in the center of the aisle. Red wine



*If you have any questions or need any assistance, please ask an usher.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME AT EMANUEL**

Recognizing that we live in a broken world, Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness. As members of Emanuel Lutheran Church and children of a loving and merciful God, we acknowledge that this reconciliation extends to people of any gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, race, culture, physical or mental ability, economic circumstances, relationship status, or any person that has ever experienced pain or oppression. Because members of different communities may have been excluded from the Church in the past, we wish to make explicit our welcome to all. It is for this purpose that we affirm that ALL people are welcome here, just as they are, contributing their individuality to the wholeness of the Body of Christ.



**SERVING TODAY**

Presiding Minister ..... Pastor Mark Olsen  
Worship Leader ..... Vicar Christine Pelfrey  
Assisting Minister..... Lynn Sherman  
Reader..... Stan Maticka  
Communion Preparers..... Glenna and Chet Brodnicki  
Director of Music ..... Jonathan Reuning-Scherer

**EMANUEL MUSICIANS**

Rebekka Almond, David Altschuler, Sarah Asmar, Andy Foreman, Trey Hazard, Morgan Hunt, Kathryn Lees, Dan Luddy, Honoka Masuyama, Hannah Maynard, Andy Nagle, Kari Olsen, Morgan Pope, Joel Reuning-Scherer, Jane Roets, Jeff Roets, Austin Tewksbury, Anna VanDeBerg, Pastor Nancy Wright

**AV TECHNICIANS**

Paul Christianson, David Counterman, Baker Wainscoat

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Given to the glory of God

*Though not expected, when it happens, applause is a spontaneous expression of our thanksgiving to God for the gifts of music and of musicians that enrich our lives and enhance our worship.*

***Soli deo gloria – Glory to God alone***

## INTRODUCTION

*Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.*

## PRELUDE

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Michael Hassell

Morgan Pope, bassoon

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

C: **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: **Amen.**

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

## GREETING

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

# \*HYMN OF PRAISE

Hassell

## REFRAIN

This is the feast of vic-to-ry. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.  
This is the feast of vic-to - ry Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## VERSE 1

Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be  
people of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis - dom and strength, and  
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

## VERSE 2

Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of  
all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo - ry and might be to  
God and the Lamb for ev - er. A men.

## LAST REFRAIN

This is the feast of vic-to-ry. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. For the  
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O Lord Jesus,

**C: make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The children are now dismissed for Sunday School.*

## **FIRST READING: GENESIS 45:3-11, 15**

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them..*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50

*In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a soprano clef (treble clef) and the piano accompaniment is in a bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*



**\*GOSPEL: LUKE 6:27-38**

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

L: The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Vicar Christine Pelfrey**



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart  
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew;  
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.  
 Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844  
 Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

## \*APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us join together in professing our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: **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

*The congregation is invited to be seated for the prayers. After each petition:*

A: God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

### \*PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*We offer each other a sign of God's peace.*

## OFFERING MUSIC

*Walk in the Light*

Emanuel Choir

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



*We offer our gifts – our time, our talent, and our treasure - to God,  
in thanksgiving for all that God has given us.*

*To make your gift online, scan the code using your  
phone's camera or QR scanner app.*

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of grace,

C: **your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

**Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts.

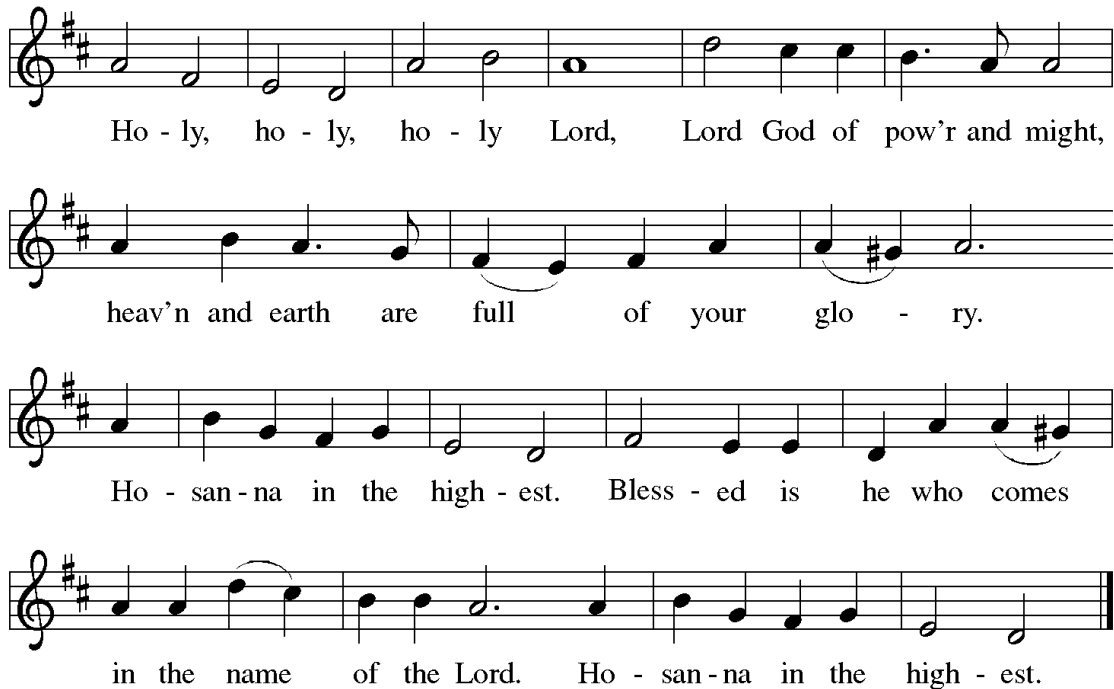
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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.

## \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### \*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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**All Are Welcome at the Table!**

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*This is the Lord's Table and all are welcome to receive the bread & wine of communion.*

*Gluten-free wafers are served by the communion assistant in the middle and white grape juice is available in each communion tray, as needed.*

*The ushers will guide you out of your pew down the center aisle to the front of the church. Once you receive communion, please return to your seat by the side aisles. If you would like to receive communion at your seat, please let an usher know. If, for any reason, you choose not to receive the bread and wine, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.*

**\*LAMB OF GOD**



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**

*Short and Sweet*

Len Sharpe

Honoka Masuyama, steel pans

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

Sarah Asmar, soprano

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
C: Amen.

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Nourishing God,  
C: at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

**\*BLESSING**

P: The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.  
C: Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**

**Open the Eyes of My Heart**

*Repeat entire song twice, finish with first half*

O - pen the eyes of my heart, Lord, o - pen the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see You, I want to see You.  
To see You high and lift - ed up, shin - ing in the light of Your glo -  
ry Lord, pour out Your pow'r and love as we sing,  
"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly".

Repeat to Beginning

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the second line, with a measure rest and a triplet of eighth notes. The third staff contains the third line, with a measure rest and a triplet of eighth notes. The fourth staff contains the fourth line, with a measure rest and a triplet of eighth notes. The fifth staff contains the fifth line, with a measure rest and a triplet of eighth notes. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.  
C: Thanks be to God.

## LIVING OUT OUR DISCIPLESHIP – WAYS TO HELP AND SERVE



**The Emanuel Food Pantry** serves hundreds of meals each month and helps to support our neighbors with basic needs. Thank you to all who have donated to help this cause! Your continued support is needed and appreciated. For February, we are asking for rice, jelly, and bar soap.

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### BE PART OF EMANUEL'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

There are many ways to serve in worship and all are welcome to volunteer! Please use the corresponding QR codes to sign up for a service. For assistance signing up, please contact Morgan in the church office. 860-525-0894 | [adminassist@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:adminassist@emanuelhartford.org)



**Serve as Assisting Minister**  
Coordinator: Maureen Leyes  
(860) 212-5492



**Assist with Communion**  
Coordinator: Valerie McDonald  
[valeriexyz@cox.net](mailto:valeriexyz@cox.net)  
(860) 965-6936



**Participate in Music**  
Contact Jonathan Reuning-Scherer  
Scan QR for more information

### Read the Lessons

Contact Lynn Sherman  
[lynnsherman480@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsherman480@gmail.com)  
(860) 550-0518

Parishoners of all ages are welcome!

### FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



#### Host Coffee Hour

Individuals, ministry teams, or other organizations are invited to sponsor our after-service coffee hour. Contact Monique Jennings at [moniquegray400@gmail.com](mailto:moniquegray400@gmail.com).



**Sponsor Altar Flowers** in memory or honor of someone. Your donation of \$75 will cover the cost of the flowers.



**Prayer Shawls** are available in a basket in the Narthex for anyone to take for themselves or to give away to someone needing to know we care. Baby blankets and a larger supply of shawls are available in the lounge of the Parish Building. Please be in touch with a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team (Bobbee Canfield, Lynne Strecker, and Lynn Sherman) with questions.

*Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.*

Connor Mansbach † Jason Gray † Christopher Favreau † Brittany Milano-Martinez

*Homebound:* Elaine Wilson † Joan Johnson † Anna-Lisa Johnson † Peggy Zachariasen

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

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[www.emanuelhartford.org](http://www.emanuelhartford.org) | [www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford](https://www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford)



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**Mazmur Sihite and Iman Quansah**

HIU Interns 2024-2025

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