

# **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

606 Orchard, Mediapolis, IA 52637

*Praising God and Serving People*

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Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Gathering Hymn** “O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts” (v. 1, 4)

**658**

## **O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts**

**658**

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to  
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our  
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you  
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.  
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.  
Music: W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

WALTON  
LM

## **Greeting**

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

## **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

L: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen**

## **Feeding of the Lambs (Children's Sermon)**

*The apostle Paul visits Athens where he argues with Stoic philosophers and calls the Athenians to repentance.*

### **First Lesson**

**Acts 17:22-31**

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all

things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” <sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

**Psalm 66:8-20 (Read responsively.)**

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

<sup>9</sup> **who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.**

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;**

<sup>12</sup> you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

<sup>13</sup> **I will come into your house with burnt-offerings; I will pay you my vows,**

<sup>14</sup> those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer to you burnt-offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah**

<sup>16</sup> Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

<sup>17</sup> **I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

<sup>19</sup> **But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

*We should have no fear of anyone if we are fighting for what is right in our world.*

### **Epistle Lesson**

**1 Peter 3:13-22**

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19i</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*Please stand as you are able.*

*As Jesus delivers his “Farewell Discourses” to the disciples, he assures them that though he may leave them in bodily form, they will never be left on their own.*

### **Gospel**

**John 14:15-21**

<sup>15</sup> ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those

who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

**Sermon**

Marilyn Perry

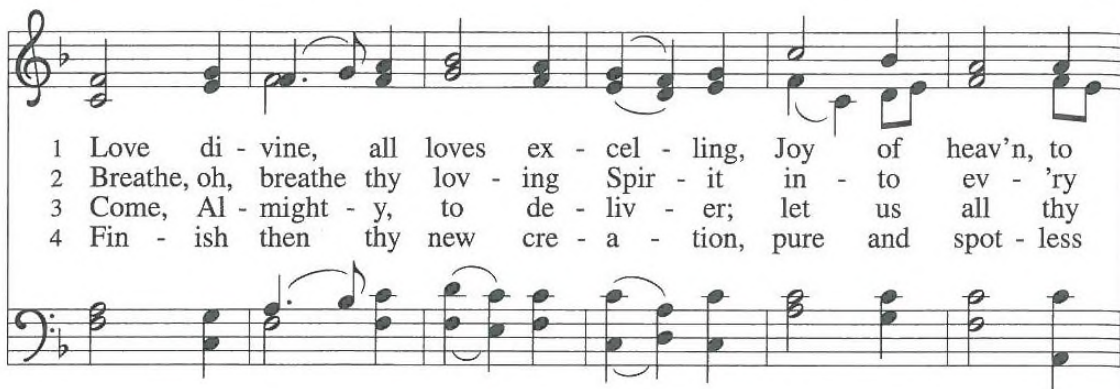


# Sermon Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (v. 1-2)

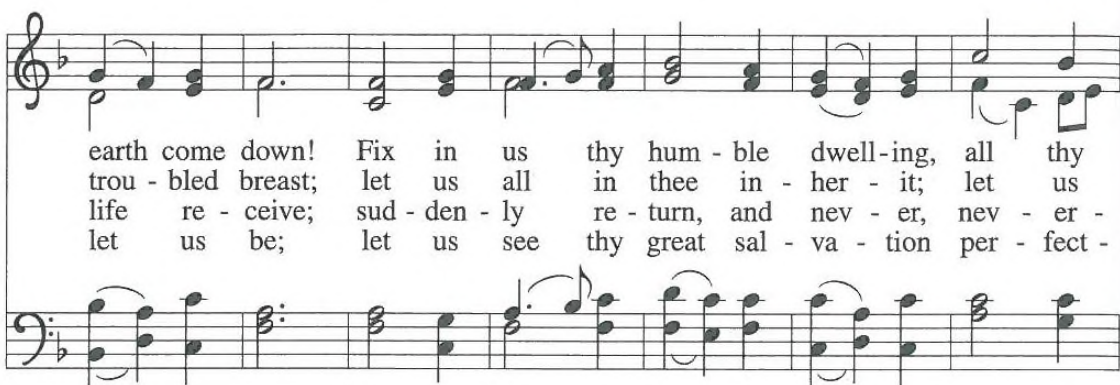
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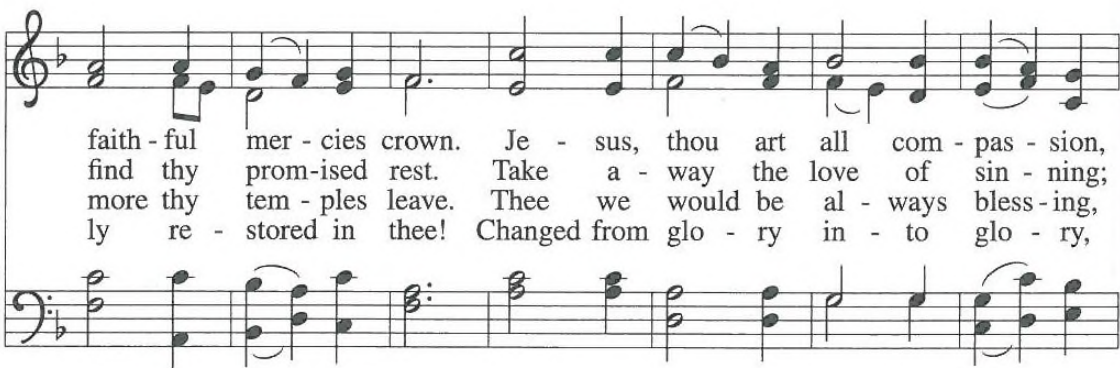
## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



### **Confession of Faith**

L: As a community, we gather to confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 the Church**

L: Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

L: Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

L: You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

L: You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

L: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care, through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

### **Benediction**

L: May the one who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing, Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

### **Sending**

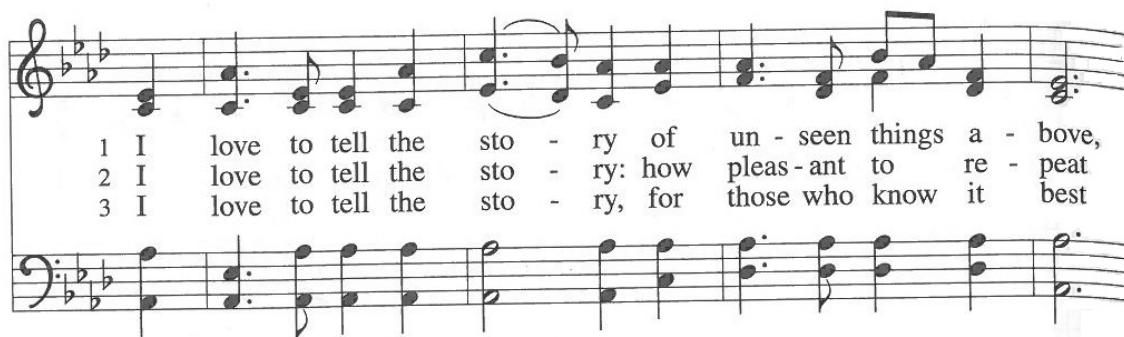
L: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

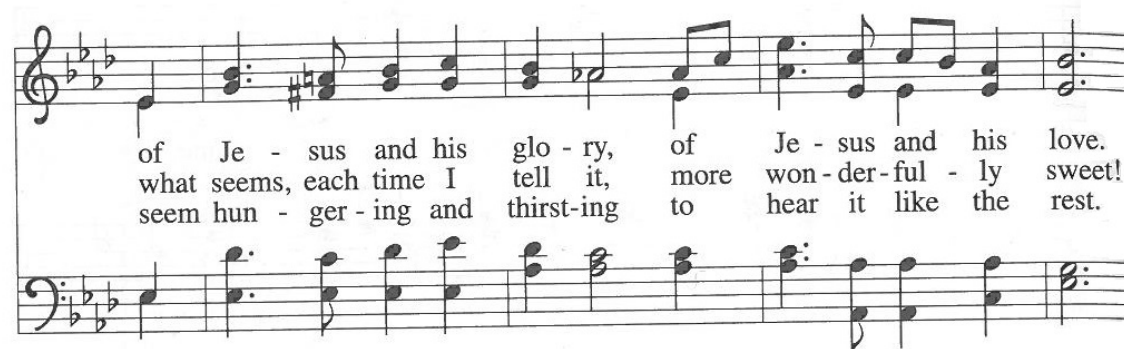


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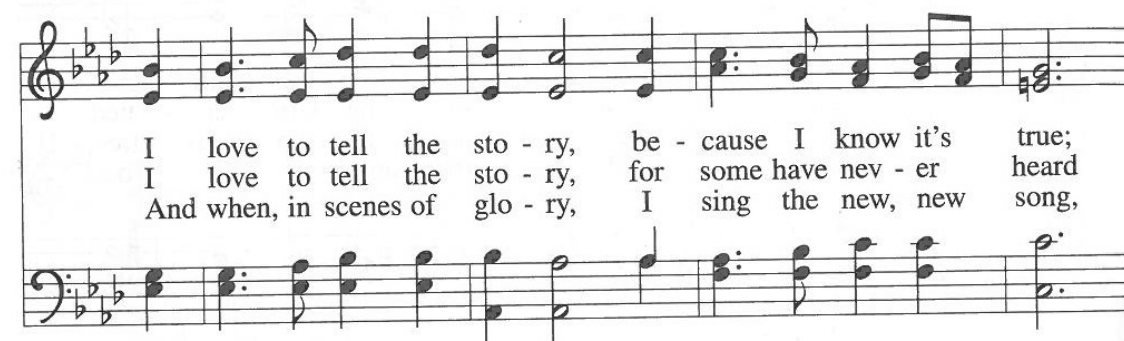
# I Love to Tell the Story



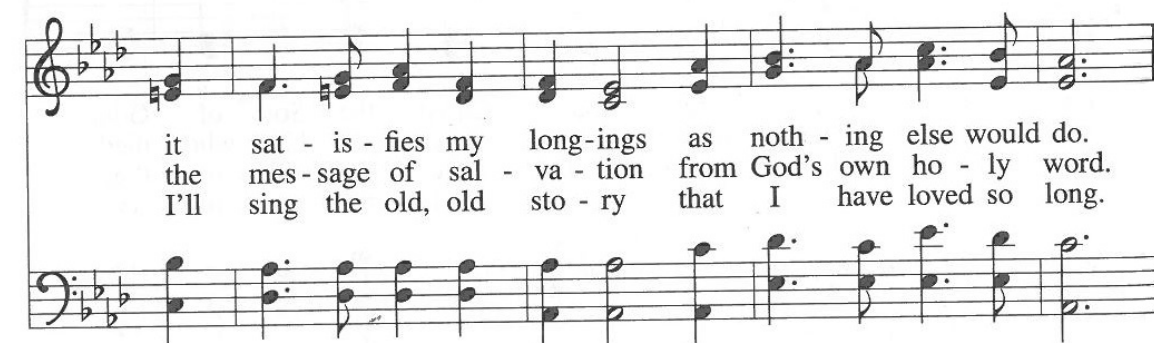
1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

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