

Immanuel – St. Paul's



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Fourth Sunday of Easter

(Jubilate)

April 25, 2021

The Meaning of "Jubilate"

The fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally known as Jubilate, which is the first Latin word [*Jubilate Deo omnis terra...* ("Shout for joy to God, all the earth")] of the Historic Introit assigned to this Sunday from the sixty-sixth psalm, which is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving to God for his awesome work of salvation.

A Note to Our Visitors

We welcome you in the name of our living Savior, Jesus Christ, and we pray that your time of worship with us today will be a blessing to you.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:25-31

1 Peter 2:11-20

John 16:16-22

Old Testament Reading

Lamentations 3:22–33

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

²⁷It is good for a man that he bear
the yoke in his youth.

²⁸Let him sit alone in silence
when it is laid on him;

²⁹let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;

³⁰let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.

³¹For the Lord will not
cast off forever,

³²but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve the children of men.

Epistle

1 John 3:1-3

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Holy Gospel

John 16:16-22

¹⁶[Jesus said:] "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'?" ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

Next Sunday Scripture Readings

Isaiah 12:1-6

James 1:16-21

John 16:5-15

Memory Verse for This Week - Easter

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God,
who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



Church Notes – April 25, 2021

Part-Time Secretary

Our secretary has submitted her intent to retire from this position. As a result, a replacement is needed.

Responsibilities include producing all bulletins and service folders for regular Sunday services and special services (e.g. midweek services and funerals), updating the church calendar(s), responding to emails, maintaining records, and updating the church website. Prior secretarial experience is not needed, but familiarity with Microsoft Word, email, and basic computing skills are preferred.

Work will usually be limited to approximately eight hours per week. The day and time you work is somewhat flexible, but should generally be on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

Training will be provided until such time as the person is fully trained and comfortable working on their own.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming the new secretary, please contact Dane Patterson or any council members. If you have questions about the position, please contact Lisa Feldmann.

Bible Class

Bible class is held in St. Paul's Parish Hall on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We are studying "The Story of Salvation." Readings for next week's study, 4/28, are: Genesis 3 – 4:15 and Second Article of the Creed in the Small Catechism

Thank You from Bob Schuette

Thank you to everyone who brought meals and helped in many ways as I recover from my injuries. Although the healing process is slow, I am grateful for all the assistance to make it easier.

Three Springs Lodge Assistance

Thank you to everyone who donated to Bonnie and Wayne. Their current needs have been met. Please continue to pray for them. Cards and/or colored pictures with notes from children are always welcome. These can be placed in the donation container as you enter church.

Three Springs will be providing names of two more residents and their lists of needs. When this information is received, it will be placed on the bulletin board near the donation container.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Vallett.

Resuming Normal Use of the Communion Rail

After discussions with the elders, Immanuel and St. Paul's will now resume use of the communion rail during the Divine Service, i.e., kneeling to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. In the Holy Scriptures, worship means prostration. Kneeling is the simplified form of prostration customary in the West and our culture. We kneel at communion as an act of confession that Christ is truly present in His Body and Blood and to show reverence and worship Him. It is time to return to our traditional form of worship, as Christians have practiced since ancient times.

We suspended kneeling for communion in March 2020 since there was significant

concern that the virus was spread through surface contact. We now know there is low risk of becoming infected this way. The CDC states, "Spread from touching surfaces is not thought to be a common way that COVID-19 spreads" (Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>).

We will continue to maintain social distancing. When you approach the communion rail, please kneel six feet apart from others (except for those of your household). As has always been the case (even before the pandemic), you still have the Christian freedom to decide for yourself if you desire to kneel or not. Of course we always recognize that there may be limitations on our physical bodies that would be a problem in kneeling (for example: if your knees are bad, kneeling may be difficult). Thus, choosing what you are comfortable with for the physical well-being of your own body is always your freedom to decide for yourself.

If you are still uncomfortable with kneeling at this time, you are free to come to communion and to remain standing without touching any surfaces and still receive Christ's body and blood in faith. You are not a better or worse Christian because you kneel or not. Therefore, we will not judge one another in this matter, but only show Christian love and understanding. We simply think the time is right to allow for those who, in Christian piety, desire to kneel but have been asked not to for the last year.

Throughout the time of the pandemic, Immanuel and St. Paul's have sought to continue in-person worship and the reception of communion while maintaining reasonable cautions given the information we have at the time by consulting medical experts and following the studies and recommendations of the CDC, and then having very Christian conversations among the congregational leaders for how we can show care and concern for one another, but still practice this essential part of our Christian faith. Of course, as we see in our secular world also, we have received a great deal of feedback over the past year, some urging us to greater restrictions, others urging us to more rapid resumption of normalcy. One of the most frequent requests I have received has been to resume the custom of kneeling. I think this is the right time for that.

Whatever your personal thoughts are on precautions that Immanuel and St. Paul's is taking, I would urge a couple of things. First, don't let the devil have a foothold to cause division in these matters among Christians. We are the *One* Body of Christ, and we are made one with each other in Christ's Body and Blood (1 Corinthians 10:17) given and shed to strengthen us in faith toward God *and in fervent love toward one another* (as we pray in the common post-communion collect). Therefore, I would also urge that you not stay away from the Lord's Supper. Christ promises us every blessing of forgiveness, life, and eternal salvation in this most Holy Meal, which He encourages us in His own Words of Institution to receive "often." We have faith, therefore, that God will protect this Most Holy Sacrament and us as we continue to receive it. However, we will continue to offer small-group communion services for those who are not yet ready to join the congregational setting. Please feel free to contact me to arrange for receiving the Lord's Supper, or any pastoral care, as you have need.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact myself or an elder

