

**The Women of Immanuel Lutheran Church
Present Their Annual**



Sunday, November 24, 2024

Prelude

Welcome

Gathering Hymn Gather Us In ELW 532

Welcome Litany

Let everyone who has ever felt cast aside, hurt, or lonely say,

I am welcome here.

Let everyone who has experienced joy and beauty say,

I am welcome here.

Let everyone who desires to find the goodness of God say,

I am welcome here.

You are welcome just as you are.

Jesus has promised to welcome me here.

Greeting

May the amazing grace of Jesus, the extravagant love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer

God of Heaven and Earth, We are gathered here today to celebrate your abundance.

We pray that you pour out on us your Holy Spirit, and your grace, love, mercy, and compassion to share with all of your people. Forgive us for the times we have failed to do so.

Lord, bring healing into the lives of those seeking your comfort, bring peace to those who know conflict, and bring strength to those everywhere who are working to bring about your kingdom here on Earth.

Today we ask that you bring stillness to our hearts and minds as we reflect on the women of the Bible and their leadership, courage, and faithfulness; those whose names we know, and those who still are unknown to us.

In your holy name we pray,

Amen

Readings

Today we are celebrating women of faith. We look to women in the bible as mentors and role models. These rich stories show us women who are mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends. We also hear of these early women serving as leaders, disciples, and in business. We continue with our first reading for today.

The story of Sarah (wife and mother) Karen Franson
Our first reading is from Genesis. Sarah and Abraham had been desiring to have a child for many, many years. God had promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, yet they remained childless. Now in their old age, they receive news of an upcoming baby. Three visitors come to the tent where Abraham and Sarah are staying. We read from the book of Genesis, chapter 18, verses 9 to 14.

The visitors said to Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the LORD?"

Here ends our reading.

Thanks be to God.

We Are Called verse 1 ELW 720

The story of Naomi and Ruth (outsider) Martha Solfest
Two books of the Bible are named for women. In the book of Ruth, Ruth is an outsider from the country of Moab. She and her mother-in-law Naomi are both widowed and travel to Naomi's hometown of Bethlehem. Ruth becomes the great grandmother of David, and an ancestor of Jesus. We read from Ruth chapter 1, verses 7 to 16.

So Naomi set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me?...No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the

LORD has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So Naomi said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Here ends our reading.

Thanks be to God.

We Are Called verse 2 ELW 720

The Story of Esther (leader & advocate) Vickie Hanson
When the turn came for Esther daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had adopted her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was admired by all who saw her^o [and] the king loved Esther more than all the other women; of all the virgins she won his favor and devotion, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. Then the king gave a great banquet to all his officials and ministers — "Esther's banquet." He also granted a holiday to the provinces, and gave gifts with royal liberality^o (In time, problems arose for the Jewish people. Esther's Uncle) Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

Here ends our reading.

Thanks be to God.

We Are Called verse 3 ELW 720

Mary and Martha (sisters, disciples) Nikki Rindal
In today's Gospel reading, Jesus spends time with Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha. We read from John 6, verses 1 to 8.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor? (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Here ends our reading.

Thanks be to God.

We Are Called verse 1 ELW 720

Lydia (business woman) Maxine Ulberg
Lydia is one of the women we encounter in the book of Acts. She is a business person selling purple cloth, which was a very expensive commodity in her time. We read from Acts chapter 16, verses 11 to 15.

Paul and Silas set sail from Troas and arrived at Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a

Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Here ends our first reading.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn ***For All the Faithful Women*** ELW 419 vs 1, 5, 7

The Gathering of our Offering

Weekly Offering will be received using the offering plates. Thankoffering may be brought forward and placed in the basket.

Thankoffering Prayers

The sung response to prayer petitions will be

Listen to Your Children Praying ELW 752

May communities of faith worldwide be places of welcoming, affirmation, safety. May refugees of climate and social circumstances find homes filled with hope in unexpected places.

(sung) **Lord listen to your children praying, Lord send your Spirit in this place; Lord listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

May those who suffer or feel castaway be guided toward open hearts and communities of love. May our community feel loved, blessed, and embraced by the never ending love of God.

(sung) **Lord listen to your children praying, Lord send your Spirit in this place; Lord listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

May we give thanks for all those who provide nurturing in our lives, that we may all find ways to love one another and see our neighbors as beloved children of God.

(sung) **Lord listen to your children praying, Lord send your Spirit in this place; Lord listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

We pray this in the name of God who loves us so extravagantly and abundantly through the loving grace of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Our 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
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.

Blessing

God has filled the hungry and thirsty with good things.

Let us give thanks to God, for God's mercy endures forever!

God has done wonderful works for all people.

Let us rejoice in God's steadfast love!

God has looked upon us with grace and favor.

Let us remember God's mercy!

God has put into our hearts a song of thanksgiving and freedom.

Let us join our voices in singing our praise!

The God of abundance; Creator, + Redeemer, and Spirit,
bless you and keep you, now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn Canticle of the Turning **ELW 723**

Sending Bell

Dismissal

Go in peace to boldly love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!