

- WELCOME!** ✧ Welcome! We are glad that you have come to First Immanuel this morning to worship God. We welcome people of every race, ethnic background, social status, physical limitation, sexual orientation and gender identity. We are a Reconciling In Christ congregation. Together, in our diversity, we seek to embrace the love God offers us in Jesus Christ.
- MASKS
OPTIONAL** ✧ Our worship services and all activities are now mask-optional. Those who wish to wear a mask are welcome to do so, since this is a very effective way to prevent infection. The church continues to provide masks, run air purifiers, and make hand sanitizer available, and our caring FILC physicians continue to encourage vaccination for everyone.
- HOLY
COMMUNION** ✧ You are invited to receive God's gifts of forgiveness and new life in Christ at God's table of Holy Communion. We are prepared and worthy to receive the sacrament when we come with a believing heart, trusting that God's love is for us.
- NURSERY** ✧ We encourage children to participate with their families in the worship service. Nursery care is also available during worship for children aged five and younger. We have a changing table and nursing area downstairs. Please ask an usher for directions.
- FLOWERS** ✧ Altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Zachary Dietz's baptism.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

PASTORS	Aaron Couch & Melinda Wagner
ASSISTING MINISTER	James Bash
LECTOR	Brian Martin
USHERS	Judy Wick, Bobbi Varnes
COMMUNION PREPARATION	Judy Wick
COMMUNION BREAD	John Koonce
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Ralph Nelson
ORGANIST	Karl Jurisons
CAMERA TECH	Ryan Traetow
ZOOM HOST	Chia Stockwell
NURSERY	Kim Verser

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT HOLY COMMUNION

19 March 2023

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

“Adagio”

César Franck, comp.

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTES

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP **“As the Sun with Longer Journey”** ELW 329, v. 1 (*red book*)
TUNE: ELW 490 (*red book*)

1. As the sun with longer journey melts the winter’s snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ’s uprising gently bring our hearts to life.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

READ

Pastor: During the season of Lent, we are called to return to God with all our heart.
Therefore, let us be honest with ourselves and with God as we prepare to
worship.

Silence for reflection and self-examination...

Pastor: Gracious God,

People: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done and what we have left undone. Forgive us and
give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life.
Amen**

Pastor: By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the
death and resurrection of Christ, ✠ God forgives us all our sins.

People: **Almighty God, we pray, strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in
eternal life. Amen**

OPENING HYMN

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

ELW 673 (*red book*)

1. God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.
2. Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.
3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water’s face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth’s darkest place
let there be light.
4. Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean’s tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide,
let there be light. © Public domain.

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

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THE KYRIE

SING: P. 138 ELW (*red book*)

Assistant: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Assistant: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Assistant: For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Assistant: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Assistant: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death, illumine our path and give us your Spirit; for you are the Lord, now and forever. Amen

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WORD

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Open Thou Mine Eyes”

John Rutter, comp.

THE LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SING: P. 142 ELW (*red book*)

Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.

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THE GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

**Pr. Melinda (Narrator), Jeannette O’Brien (Jesus), Brian Martin (Man born blind),
Mary Laws (Parents), Lynn Akerman (People/Disciples/Pharisees)**

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

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CHILDREN’S TIME

THE SERMON

Pastor Melinda Wagner

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715 (*red book*)

1. Longing for light,
we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth,
we turn to you.
Make us your own,
your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.

2. Longing for peace,
our world is troubled.
Longing for hope,
many despair.
Your word alone
has pow’r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain

5. Many the gifts,
many the people,
many the hearts that
yearn to belong.
let us be servants
to one another,
signs of your kingdom come.

Refrain

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. The power of sin is put to death in this holy flood, and we are raised with Jesus Christ to new life. We are united with all the baptized in the one Body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and sent out in mission for the life of the world.

The sacrament of baptism includes the following responses...

Pastor: Together, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. 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.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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...

Pastor: Through baptism Zachary has been received into the family of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share. Join us as we give praise to God and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: As we seek in this Lenten time to grow in our faith, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition...

Assistant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Receive our prayers, O merciful God, and lead us in your way of life.

People: Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

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GATHERING OF GIFTS

“Meditation”

Sumor Gnist, comp.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free spirit.

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Assistant: Let us pray. Gracious God,

People: we come to your table with gifts of heart and hand. Fill us with your love so that our lives may bear fruit for your world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SING: P. 144, ELW (*red book*)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory....
...to whom be honor and glory, now and forever.

People: 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

Pastor: Taste and see that the Lord is good. The body of Christ is given for us. The blood of Christ is shed for us.

LAMB OF GOD

SING: P. 146 ELW (*red book*)

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.

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All are welcome at Christ's table, where the risen Christ is present to strengthen us to share in God's loving purposes for the world. To receive Holy Communion in a low-touch manner, the ushers will direct you up the center aisle to receive bread or a gluten-free wafer from a pastor. After receiving the bread, step aside to a station where you may eat the bread and drink an individual cup of red wine or white grape juice. Please take your used cup back to your seat, where an usher will collect it.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 1

“Come to the Table”

ELW 481 (*red book*)

Come to the table of mercy,
prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty,
come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation;
receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation;
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN 2

“Broken in Love”

This is my body, broken in love;
take it and eat and remember me.

This is my blood, poured out in love;
take it and drink and remember me.

For love is willing ev’ry day to die in order to live,
and love is patient for a way to share the gifts that I give.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN 3

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

ELW 471 (*red book*)

1. Let us break bread together
on our knees;
let us break bread together
on our knees.

2. Let us drink wine together
on our knees;
let us drink wine together
on our knees.

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Refrain

3. Let us praise God together
on our knees;
let us praise God together
on our knees.

Refrain

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN 4

“Jesus, Remember Me”

ELW 616 (*red book*)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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BLESSING

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of Christ’s body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

People: **Amen**

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray. Compassionate God,

People: **your Son welcomed sinners and ate with them. We give you thanks for the forgiveness and grace we have received in this meal. Make us signs of your love, that all the world may know your mercy and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May Almighty God, Creator, Savior ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and forever.

People: Amen

CLOSING HYMN “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” ELW 843 (*red book*)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Praise the One
who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One
who frees the pris’ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One
who preached the gospel,
healing ev’ry dread disease,
calming storms
and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace. | Praise the One
who brings cool water
to the desert’s burning sand;
from this well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev’ry land. |
| 2. Praise the One
who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One
who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword. | 3. Praise the one
true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and
rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing
for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one
redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one. |

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SENDING

Assistant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

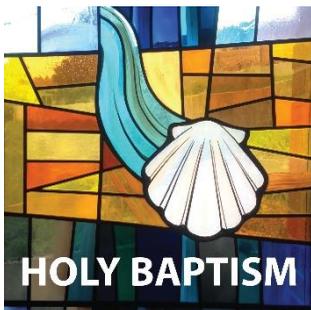
ORGAN POSTLUDE

“O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig”

J.S. Bach, comp.

*You are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for prayer.
The front section of our worship area is dedicated as quiet prayer space
following the close of worship. God be with you.*

Note: For live links, please see our weekly e-news or website



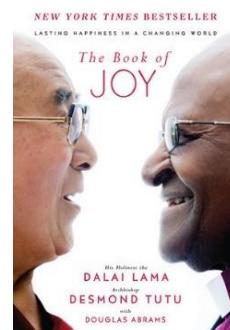
Baptized into the Body of Christ today is **Zachary Daniel Dietz**, son of **Dan and Rachel Dietz**. Zachary's baptismal sponsors are **Lauren and Matt Gorski**.

Welcome to the Lord's family, Zachary!

Forum meets Sundays, 9:30-10:30, hybrid format

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World
by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Feeling the pain of the world and recognizing how many are struggling with isolation and despair, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu met one last time before Tutu's passing to create a final gift—poignant, practical, and often humorous teachings on how we can live with more Joy, even during deeply troubled times. Books are free through a Thrivent grant, contact pastormelinda@firstimmanuelluth.org to claim yours! We'll meet in the Library or by Zoom at [this link](#); Meeting ID: 826 9448 2199, Passcode: PhtMa8.



Lenten Midweek Worship

Holden Evening Prayer in person, Thursdays at 6:30 PM
“God Blesses the Lives We Actually Have”



During Lent we'll gather at church on Thursday evenings to sing **Holden Evening Prayer**—please join us in person (Zoom is unavailable). The pastors will share reflections on the theme, ***“God Blesses the Lives We Actually Have.”*** Based on a new book by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie, we claim the promise that Jesus will walk with us through whatever kind of Lenten day we are having.

Practicing spiritual honesty, we bless the days we actually have, while longing for the future God promised when there will be no tears or pain. We hope and pray to understand that our actual days—pain-filled, lovely, ordinary, garbage—are blessed.

Help decorate the church with Easter lilies

We'll soon be ordering Easter lilies to decorate the front of the sanctuary. Please see Martha Driessnack for details and to sign up to donate a lily plant. Thanks!



New Volunteer Opportunity



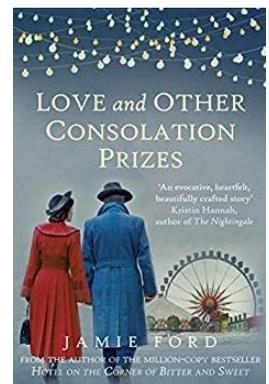
We've been invited by Lift Urban Portland to help serve our new neighbors who will be moving into the new Emmons Place Apartments, just across the street on 18th Avenue. This is about a 2-hour commitment from 11 AM to 1 PM on the second Friday of the month starting in March 2023.

- We will need 2-3 persons each time to deliver 1 box and 1 bag of food to each recipient (up to 15/visit). This amount of food is estimated to last for up to 14 days and includes fresh produce as well as staples. (Pick up at Lift UP warehouse, 3448 NW Yeon Ave.)
- The delivery will also include food for the building pantry/emergency supply.
- Volunteers will need to complete a background check and view training videos.
- Volunteers can use Lift UP's van to pick up and deliver the food to Emmons Place.
- If you are able to help with this new opportunity, please contact Jeannette O'Brien at jaobrien2156@comcast.net. Thank you!

Book Group meets next Sunday, March 26 at 6:30 PM

Love and Other Consolation Prizes, by Jamie Ford

Join us for great company, conversation and dessert at the home of Jim & Judy Wick in Lake Oswego. RSVP to get directions and let us know you're coming (Judy.Wick@gmail.com). Our selection: *From the bestselling author of "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" comes a powerful novel, inspired by a true story, about a boy whose life is transformed at Seattle's epic 1909 World's Fair. The orphaned twelve-year-old Ernest Young is raffled off "to a good home" and becomes a houseboy in a high-class brothel. Fifty years later, he is coming to terms with his past. Against a rich backdrop of post-Victorian vice, suffrage, and celebration, it's an enchanting tale about innocence and devotion—in a world where everything, and everyone, is for sale.*



Save the date for our next Baking Day!

Sunday, April 16, 3:30 PM

Mark your calendars and join the fun at our baking day on Sunday, April 16 at 3:30 PM, when Lynn Akerman will lead us in making blueberry scones. Watch upcoming e-news for recipe details and Zoom link!



Looking ahead: New Forum April 16-May 28

Civic Life and Faith, Sundays 9:30-10:30 AM, Hybrid Format



Did you know that ELCA social teaching is developed through a participatory and democratic process? Here's our chance to learn together and make our perspectives known. This ELCA course includes videos and discussion on faith-based living and civic life, purpose of government, church-state relationships, religious liberty, objectives of democracy, and more. After each session you're invited to share your views with the ELCA task force currently developing a social statement on civic life and faith. Join us in person in the Library or online via [this Zoom link](#), Meeting ID: 826 9448 2199, Passcode: PhtMa8. Study materials are available in class and mailed to Zoom participants. To request your packet, contact pastormelinda@firstimmanuel.org. Welcome!

FILC Congregational Retreat—all members invited!

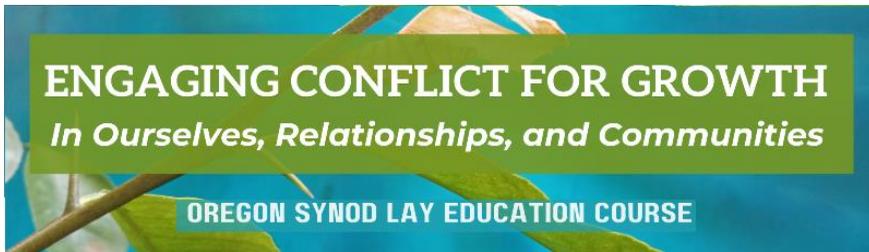
Morning of Saturday, April 29, at church

Your perspective is important as we discern our congregation's opportunities for ministry in the coming year. A great deal has changed since our last formal retreat, way back before pandemic. How is God's Spirit calling us forward today? The gathering will include breakfast snacks, great company, and thoughtful conversation. We'll conclude before lunch. Please RSVP to Debbie at 503-226-3659, office@firstimmanuel.org. See you there!



Lutheran Community Services NW Refugee Response: Furniture Donations Needed!

The Portland office is looking for new or gently used furniture donations for clients being resettled. See the info below, and contact in-kind donations coordinator Natasha Pavlovets at portlanddonations@lcsnw.org if you would like to make a donation. Refugee families are always in need of: new and like-new furniture (couches, chairs, dining sets, dressers, bed frames, end tables, lamps), diapers, baby wipes, new child car seats & boosters. *Unable to accept: food, used clothes & shoes, used bedding or linens, used mattresses.* Please email before bringing your donation to be sure there is space. Another ongoing need is transportation for refugee families. Thank you!



Conflict is normal in all relationships, including congregations, so why can it seem so hard or complicated? How can we facilitate healthy, constructive conflict, and mitigate unhealthy, destructive conflict? How do we tell the difference? Pastors John and Joan Beck will approach conflict through three lenses—personal, biblical, and systemic—drawing lessons from personal, family, and community life, while emphasizing conflict in congregations.

Class meets online for 6 weeks, beginning Thursday, April 13, 6:30-8 PM. The course is designed with a Lutheran lens and inclusive heart—all are welcome. Sliding scale donations (\$20-\$160) are encouraged, but not required. Visit ww.oregonsynod.org for details and registration link.



First Immanuel YouTube Recordings!

Did you know we have a YouTube channel? Thanks to Chris Weiss, Richard Wong and Ryan Traetow, our recent worship services are posted on YouTube for viewing at any time. It's a whole new frontier of outreach!

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7 [not printed]

Psalms 95

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11 [not printed]

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You

worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Next Sunday's Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

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Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R