

Sunday, May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter, 6A
Pastor Kim Swenson



GATHERING

Prelude

Tone Chime

Welcome

*Please rise in body or in spirit. The congregation is invited to say the **bold** words.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



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



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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. **Amen.**

This Is the Feast

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, Almighty and ever-living God, **you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson: Acts 17: 22-31

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For 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. ²⁴The 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, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From 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, ²⁷so 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. ²⁸For '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.' ²⁹Since 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. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8-20 (read responsively by verse)

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;
¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**
²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who 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 persons, were saved through water. ²¹And 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

The Word for All Ages

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia



Gospel: John 14:15-21

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This 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. ¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon



- 1 Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine;
- 2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine;
- 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, for - ti - fy this will of mine;
- 4 Ho - ly Spir - it, peace di - vine, still this rest - less heart of mine;
- 5 Ho - ly Spir - it, right di - vine, king with - in my con - science reign;



breath of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it, clear my sight.
kin - dle ev - 'ry high de - sire; purge me with your ho - ly fire.
by your will I strong - ly live, brave - ly bear, and no - bly strive.
speak to calm this toss - ing sea, stayed in your tran - quil - i - ty.
be my guide, and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1819-1892

Music: SONG 13, Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

Apostles' Creed

**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 the People

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints. Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always,

And also with you.

MEAL

Offering Prayer

We give because we are abundantly blessed. We are given more than we need, so we can give to those in need. We give joyfully and humbly, knowing we are simply following the way Jesus gave himself to us.

Let us pray, Merciful God,
**our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration,
but you make of them an abundance,
just as you do with our lives.
Feed us again at this table
for service in your name,
in the strength of the risen Christ.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living, you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths
to praise you again: **The earth is full of your glory. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Communion Hymns

Hymn

How Great Thou Art

Cranberry #856



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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. **Amen.**

Hymn

On Our Way Rejoicing

Cranberry #537

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,
hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister:	Doug Hanson
Reader:	Peggy Hansen
Altar Guild:	June Andrews
Communion Assist:	Laurie Andrews
Ushers:	Gayle & Jack Peot
Video Tech:	Sue Keckhaver

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Thank you to Marilyn Meister and Peggy Hansen for providing Fellowship Hour today. Please if you are able to help on a future date, June through August sign up in the hallway.

Pastor's Recovery: As you know Pastor's surgery went well and she is on the mend. She will return on a part-time basis. For pastoral emergencies please call pastor first. If not available Pastor Jennifer of Good Shepherd in Howard may be called 920-737-8202.

Salvation Army Senior Lunch Meal Prep: Monday, May 15th. Sign-up is in the hallway.

Memorial Day Remembrance: Memorial Day is right around the corner. This is the day we honor the men and women who died while serving their country. Many gave some---and some gave all. Lets honor these Veterans and remember them always. Please share with us the names of those to be remembered at Worship on Sunday, May 28th. Call Bethel Lutheran Church 920-494-3737 and leave the name and branch of service with the Administrative Assistant Deb. Example: Donald D. Sigl-Army. Veterans Day is in November, we would also like a list of living Veterans within this membership so they can be honored for their service. Thank you and God Bless our Veterans.

First Communion Class: A preparation class will be held on **Tuesday, May 30th at 6pm**. The invitation is for all children in 1st -4th grade, and older students who have not yet taken 1st communion. We will be using the material, *A Place for You* by Daniel Erlander, to help your child/children understand the importance of this special meal and how they are invited to the table. This session is for **students and parents. Please let Pastor know if you will or will not participate.** 1st Communion will be June 4th.

Summer Worship: Midweek summer worship will begin Wednesday, June 7th at 6:30 pm.

Bike Blessing & Tune-up: Bethel's 2nd Annual Bike Blessing & Tune-up will be held on Sunday, June 11th. Worship will be at 9am in the parking lot with the celebrations happening afterwards. Bring your bike for a free tune-up and a blessing for this season on the road. If you have a yard sign from last year, please bring it to the office as soon as possible so it can be updated with the proper information. Yard signs will be available mid-May.

Landscape Edging Donations: Donation cards available in hallway for those who would like to remember a loved one through a donation for the landscape edging.

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