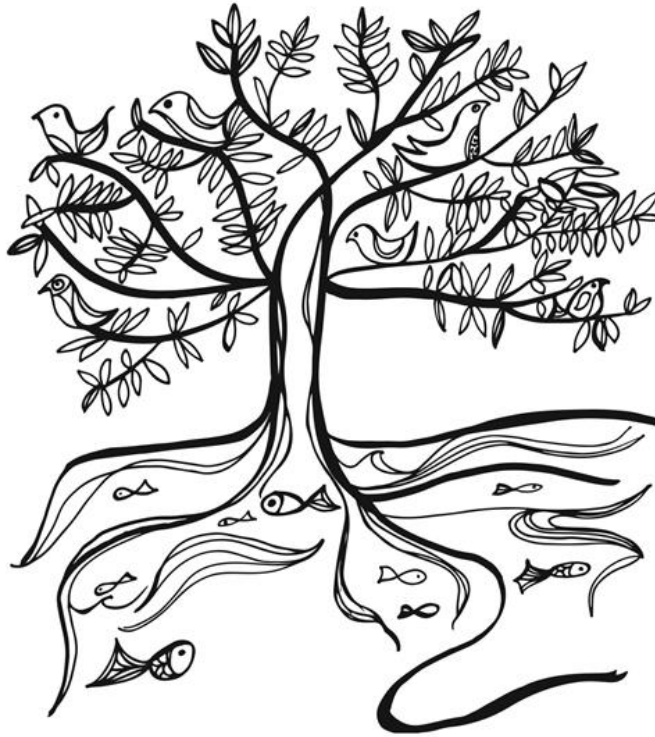


**Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 25, 2025 Year C**



Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Cindy Michalski

Reader: Doris Brack

Altar Guild: Dawn Schroeder

Communion Assistant: Dawn Schroeder

Ushers: Jerry Boettcher & Howard Schroeder

Video Tech: Doug Scholes

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

A rumor about an empty tomb
And a missing body.

Unlikely.

Yet this was the testimony of the women;
And it was confirmed by the disciples.

It means life will never be the same.

Love is stronger than death,
Forgiveness flows,
Healing comes,
People change,
Hope is renewed.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* **Cranberry 414**



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
and the white-robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
set of sun through the church the song goes on.
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900

Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

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.

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 (setting 3) pp.140-41

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.

Refrain

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.



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.



Prayer of the Day

The grace we discover on Easter morn,
the love of God that opens the world to a new day,
and the community that gathers in the spirit of the risen one,
be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, Bountiful God, **you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

WORD

First Lesson: Acts 16:9-15

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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.

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

Psalm 67 (read responsively by verse)

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
**² that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁶ The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

¹⁰ And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

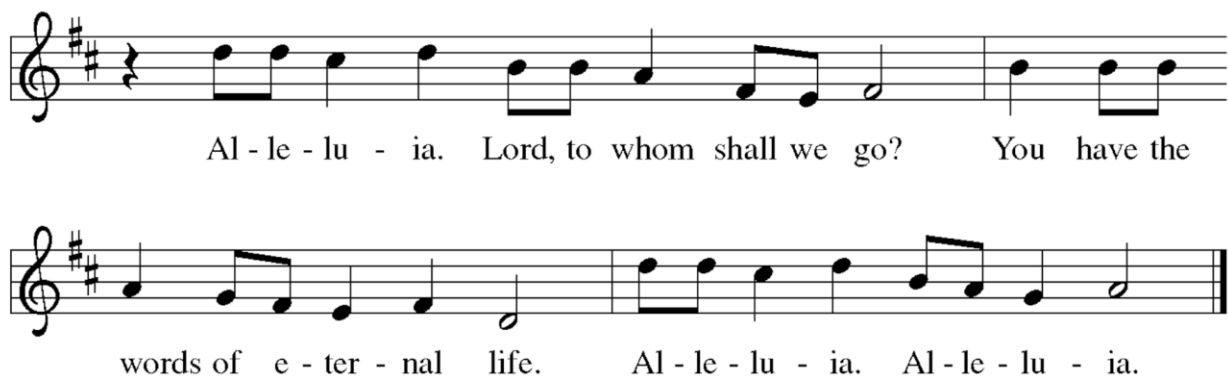
^{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds

of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

The Word for All Ages

Gospel Acclamation Setting 3



Gospel: John 14:23-29

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

²³ Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

Cranberry 398



- 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

Apostle's 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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Unite your people with communities of faith throughout the world. Further cooperation between people of different faith traditions and bless our non-Christian neighbors, that we learn and grow in deeper relationship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless the earth with fresh water, clean air, and rich soil. Nurture growing crops and encourage communities developing sustainable farming practices. Help us to live in balance and harmony with your good creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile nations and communities suffering from violence and conflict. Protect refugees, asylum-seekers, and all who flee their homes seeking safety and security. Make all nations safe for both migrants and residents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all who are in need, especially individuals and families struggling with trauma or addiction. Support caregivers, especially nurses, doctors, counselors, and social workers. Come alongside all who are ill or struggling. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

This Memorial Day weekend, we remember all who have died in military service. Soothe loved ones who mourn, and strengthen support systems for veterans and their families. Bring peace among nations, that war and conflict around the world might cease. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for all your saints raised to new life in Christ. Gather us, with them, into the peace only you can give. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, the breath choked from George Floyd still haunts our streets and sanctuaries. We remember his name and his cry for mercy. Trouble our hearts until they break open with compassion. Strengthen us to labor for what still remains undone. Breathe your Spirit into your people, until all can breathe free. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, ten years have passed, but the wounds of that night still cry out. We remember the slain of Mother Emanuel and grieve the hatred that desecrated their sanctuary. We confess the racism that endures in our nation and in your church. Turn our sorrow into repentance and our repentance into action. In our grief, show us the cross of Jesus Christ, your beloved, who bore the wounds of our violence, and now wears the crown of glory with all your martyrs. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always,
And also with you.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, Risen One,
**you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world. 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.

Gathered round a table is where Jesus so often met people . . .
. . . gathered round the table of Matthew,
the table of Zacchaeus,
the table of Simon,

the table of Peter,
the table of Lazarus, Martha and Mary,
the tables of Joanna and Susannah
. . . gathered round a table where he could see people face to face, listen to
their stories, share their laughter.
And here, we are gathered round a table because this is where Jesus has
promised to be.

We remember the night, in an upstairs room, when Jesus sat at a meal with his
disciples. They gathered around one table, those who were broken and those
who sought wholeness. And Jesus took the bread, gave thanks for it, and gave it
to every one of them saying, take, and eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do
this in remembrance of me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine that sat among them; he blessed it and
gave it to every one of them, saying, Take, and drink. This is the cup of the new
covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

So we will do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine from this table
through which Jesus has promised to make himself known to each one of us.

The Lord's Prayer

And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us follow his example.

**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

Let Us Break Bread Together

Cranberry 471



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Cranberry 579



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and
2 Lord, you call us to your ser-vice: "In my name bap -
3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they
5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



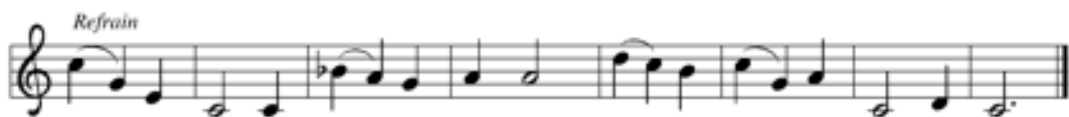
preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May God the Creator raise you from all that would bury you,
May Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you ✠
And may the Holy Spirit empower you to go forth with hope,
to release resurrection in the world. **Amen.**



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 5/20/25:	\$14,199.30
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$20,033.00
YTD Receipts through 4/30/25:	\$ 84,665.00

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Please, if you are able to help on a future date in June, sign up in the hallway.

Pastor Kim: Is on vacation May 22nd-May 26th. For Pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Melissa at Resurrection.

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting: Is Sunday June 1st at 10:00am. Please plan on attending this important meeting as Council reps will be elected.

Culver's Share Event: On June 3rd, Bethel will receive 15% of all sales on food and gift cards from 5:00-8:00pm at the Suamico Culver's. Come out and enjoy a juicy butter burger or your other Culver's favorites or buy a gift card. 6 volunteers are needed to bus tables and deliver food to tables & drive-up customers for 1 1/2- hour shifts. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway.

Summer Midweek Worship: Starting June, 4th there will be a worship service at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays in the lounge.

NEW Shelter Meal: Please see sign up sheet in the hallway for needed treats for the meal on June 8th.

Handbags for Hope: In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to bring in any unwanted purses. Donations are also needed of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin in the lounge.

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