

**Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Seventh Sunday of Easter June,1 2025 Year C**



**Worship Assistants**

**Assisting Minister:** Doug Hanson

**Reader:** Sandi Tibbetts

**Altar Guild:** Debbie Kasulke

**Communion Assistant:** Dawn Schroeder

**Ushers:** Carl Andrews & Howard Schroeder

**Video Tech:** Yvonne Pamperin

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*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.**

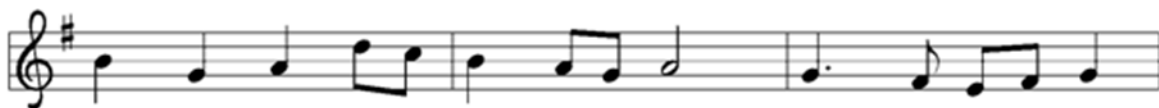
Yet this was the testimony of the women;  
And it was confirmed by the disciples.

**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** *Word of God, Come Down on Earth* **Cranberry 510**



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

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## **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.



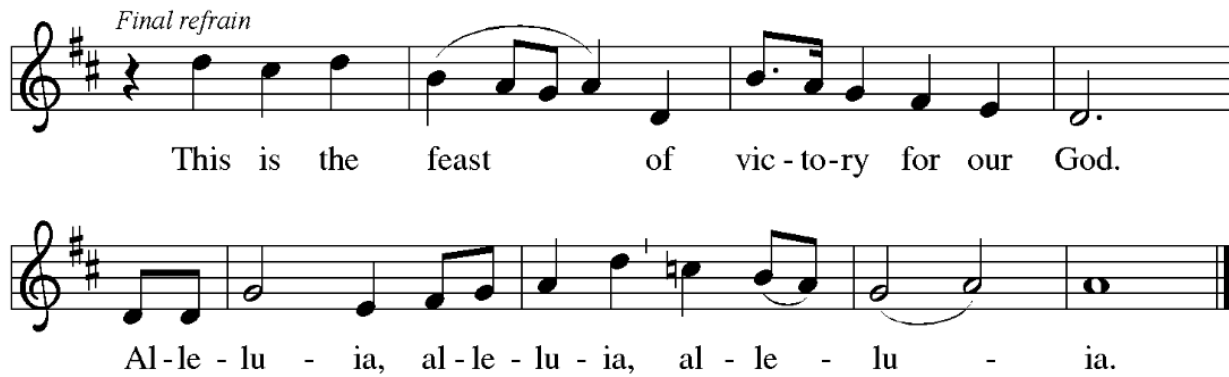
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



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, O God, **form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

**WORD**

### First Lesson: Acts 16:16-34

<sup>16</sup> One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in

attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

**Psalm 97** (read responsively by verse)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!

**<sup>2</sup>Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes before him,  
and consumes his adversaries on every side.

**<sup>4</sup>His lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.**

<sup>5</sup>The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,  
before the LORD of all the earth.

**<sup>6</sup>The heavens proclaim his righteousness;  
and all the peoples behold his glory.**

<sup>7</sup>All worshipers of images are put to shame,  
those who make their boast in worthless idols;

all gods bow down before him.

**<sup>8</sup>Zion hears and is glad,  
and the towns of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O God.**

<sup>9</sup>For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD loves those who hate evil;  
he guards the lives of his faithful;  
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

<sup>11</sup>Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.

**<sup>12</sup>Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!**

### The Word for All Ages

#### Gospel Acclamation Setting 3



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

#### Gospel: John 17:20-26

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

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>20</sup>“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup>that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup>Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the



foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

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

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day** *In Christ There Is No East or West*

**Cranberry 650**



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.  
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.  
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.  
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

## 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.

Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, all people are held in your care. Accompany survivors of abuse, trauma, and exploitation. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, be with this congregation as summer begins in the northern hemisphere. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community, and support the well-being of children and young people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, the beginning and the end, you are with us throughout our lives. In gratitude for the saints who have died we look toward your coming again among us. 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.**

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*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**

One Bread, One Body

Cranberry 496

*Refrain*



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.



1 Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,  
2 Man-y the gifts, man-y the works,  
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,



*Refrain*

wom-an or man, no more.  
one in the Lord of all.  
gath-ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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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.**

## 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.**

### Closing Hymn      *We All Are One in Mission* **Cranberry 576**



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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## **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 5/27/25:	\$15,265.40
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.

**Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting:** Is today at 10:00am. Please attend this important meeting as Council reps will be elected.

**Culver's Share Event:** On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

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

**Confirmation:** Is next Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>. It is also Pentecost Sunday so remember to wear **RED**!

**NEW Shelter Meal:** Please see sign-up sheet in the hallway for needed treats for the meal on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**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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