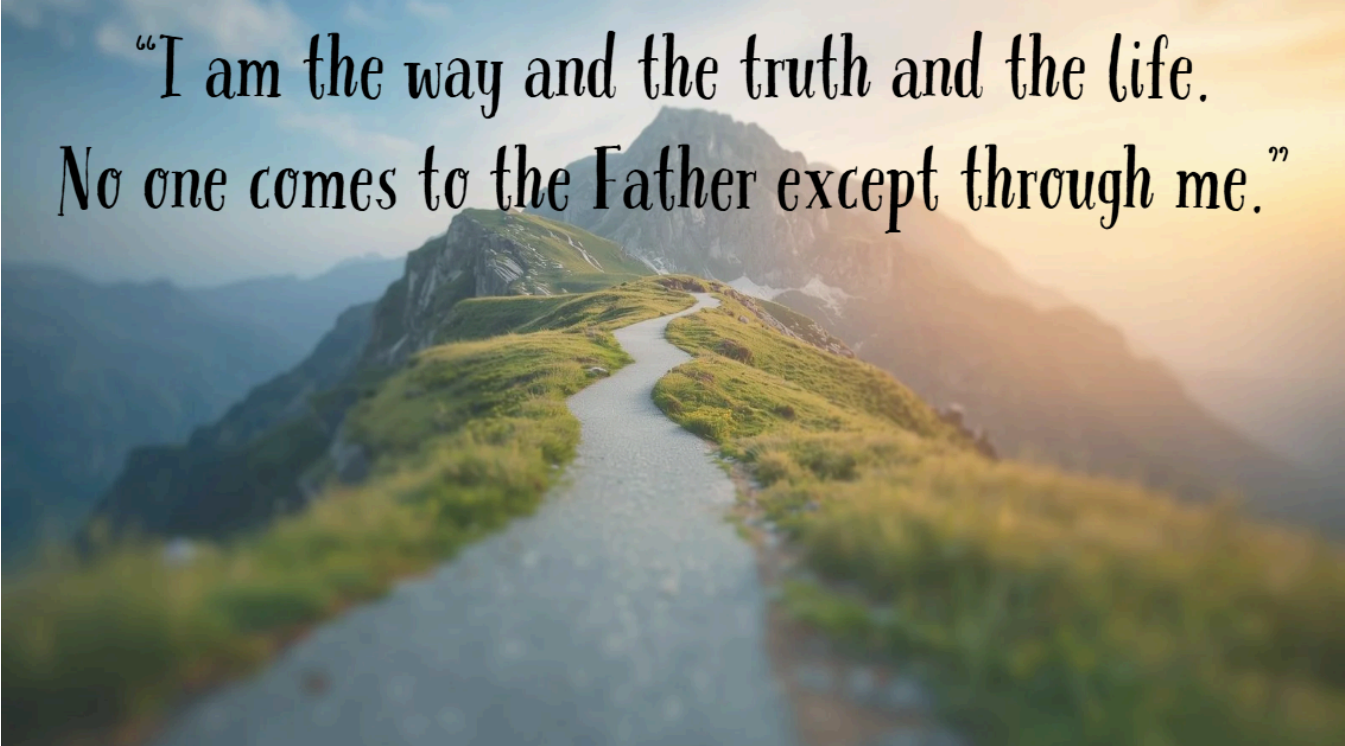


Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

May 3, 2026



“I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Rev Anne Edison-Albright- Bishop East Central Synod

Music and Choir Director Rowen Erickson

**Worship Volunteers**

**Assisting Minister:** Cindy Michalski

**Reader:** Doris Brack

**Altar Guild:** Kathy Long

**Communion Assistant:** Linda Wery

**Ushers:** Peggy Hansen & Sheila Greenwood

**Video Tech:** Doug Hanson

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

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CHOIR INVOCATION**



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;  
 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;  
 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;  
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.  
 you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.  
 and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.  
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.  
 Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
 and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:  
 morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

**THIS IS THE FEAST** (setting 3)

pgs.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. | 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.

*Refrain*

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**

Let us pray, **Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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 7:55-60**

55 Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58 Then they dragged

him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.  
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**(read responsively by verse)

1 In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.

**2 Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.**

**Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.**

3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;

**4 take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.**

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

**15 My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.**

16 Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.

**SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and 5 like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

8 and

“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

pg. 142



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 14:1-14**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

**SERMON**

Rev Anne Edison-Albright- Bishop East Central Synod



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

## **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**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through 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, **Merciful God,**

**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**

**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.**

**Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with  
earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
 You are most holy,  
 and great is the majesty of your glory.  
 You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.  
 We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
 to fulfill for us your holy will  
 and to accomplish all things for our salvation.  
 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.  
 For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
 we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
 and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.  
 To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

### 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,  
 for ever and ever. Amen.

### LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,  
 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!  
 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;  
 For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing  
 rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,  
 of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,  
 Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.  
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.  
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, **Holy One,**

**through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

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

**SENDING**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

### SENDING HYMN *Dearest Jesus, We Are Here Vs 1,2,4, and 5*

Cranberry 443



1 Dear - est Je - sus, we are here, glad - ly your com -  
2 Your com - mand is clear and plain, and we would o -  
3 There - fore we have come to you, in our arms this  
4 Gra - cious head, your mem - ber own; shep - herd, take your  
5 Now in - to your heart we pour prayers that from our



mand o - bey - ing. With this child we now draw near  
bey it du - ly: "You must all be born a - gain,  
in - fant bear - ing; tru - ly here your grace we view;  
lamb and feed it; prince of peace, make here your throne;  
hearts pro - ceed - ed. Our pe - ti - tions heav'n - ward soar;



in re - sponse to your own say - ing that to you it  
heart and life re - new - ing tru - ly, born of wa - ter  
may this child, your mer - cy shar - ing, in your arms be  
way of life, to heav - en lead it; pre - cious vine, let  
may our heart's de - sires be heed - ed! Write the name we



shall be giv - en as a child and heir of heav - en.  
and the Spir - it, and my king - dom thus in - her - it."  
shield - ed ev - er, yours on earth and yours for - ev - er.  
noth - ing sev - er from your side this branch for - ev - er.  
now have giv - en; write it in the book of heav - en!

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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### Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 4/27/26	\$24,244.71
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$18,843.00
YTD Receipts through 3/31/26:	\$ 53,627.00

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### The Bethel Weekly

**Communication Training:** Cathy Cowling, will be with us for four consecutive Wednesday evenings at 6pm beginning on April 22nd through May 13th. During her time with us, Cathy will help us talk about the conflict and loss of trust with leadership and then focus on learning more healthy and effective skills and tools for communication and dealing with conflict. Please plan to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

**Salvation Army Senior Meal:** is May 18th, Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway for food items needed.

**Woodside Donations:** We have started collecting donations for woodside. The red wagon is for Resurrection Food Pantry and the metal basket is for Woodside. They are needing the following items:

- \*Markers & Colored Pencils
- \*Figurines to paint
- \*New Nail Polish
- \*Hygiene products (deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste)
- \*Socks with grips
- \*Full size candy bars
- \*Seasonal Décor/ Trinkets

**Stamp Out Hunger:** food drive is coming on Saturday May 9th. The Food Pantry will again need collection teams to pick up the food on the mail routes beginning at 9:30 am. The pantry is furnishing teams who will be collecting on the East Side of Green Bay at the Cofrin Post office. The collection activity is usually finished by about 1pm. We will then need many additional people at the pantry to sort and put the food away. There will be a light lunch funded by a Thrivent Action Grant around 12:30 pm. Those who

participated last year actually had fun doing this service. Just remember to bring sunscreen.

**Fellowship Hour:** If you are able to help on a date in May, please sign up in the hallway.

**Handbags for Hope:** In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, 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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