

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter
ELW Setting 3

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor
Jan Smith, Accompanist
GivePlus Text 866-298-7547

GATHERING

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

Prelude Organ/Piano Duet, Emily Koehler and Jan Smith
"Thine Is the Glory" arr. Lani Smith, "Cornerstone" arr. Jack Schrader

Welcome and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,...Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John...now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Gathering Song "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*) ELW #377

Greeting (front of red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal (ELW p. 138)

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

Kyrie (ELW p. 138) In peace, let us pray to the Lord...**Lord, have mercy...**

Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 140) **This is the feast...**

Prayer of the Day

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem "Agnus Dei" arr. Benjamin Harlan

WORD

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

Readings and Psalm

Acts 8:26-40 (back page) The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:25-31 (read responsively/insert)

1 John 4:7-21 (back page) The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 142) **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?...**
The Gospel according to John the fifteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
John 15:1-8 (back or insert) The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**
Children's Sermon
Sermon
Hymn of the Day "For the Fruit of All Creation" ELW #679
Apostles Creed (ELW p. 105)
Prayers of the People God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
Passing of the Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offertory "Take Me to the Water" (African American spiritual), arr. Horace C. Boyer
Offertory Prayer
Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving (ELW p. 144)
Preface for the Day (ELW p. 144) **Holy, holy, holy Lord...**
Lord's Prayer
Communion (ELW p. 146) **Lamb of God...**
Communion Hymn "Where Charity and Love Prevail" ELW #359
Prayer after Communion
Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Blessing
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always.
Amen.
Sending Song "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" ELW #452
Sending Words Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!
Postlude "Do You Feel the Mountains Tremble? w/Alleluia! Alleluia!" arr. C. Tornquist

Spirit Art
A Meditative Study of Scripture through Art



"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. John 15:5

Psalm 22:25-31 (read responsively)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Hymns Today:

The hymns today relate to the scripture lessons in the following ways:

- The Gathering hymn, "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen" relates to today's Gospel.
- The Offertory hymn, "Take Me to the Water" relates to the First reading.
- The Communion hymn and the Sending hymn relate to the Second reading.
- The Prelude and Postlude music were chosen as we continue to celebrate the Easter season!

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Choir Notes: today's anthem "Agnus Dei" *Agnus Dei* is the Latin term referring to the "Lamb of God". It is based on the saying of John the Baptist: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)
May the song, written by singer and songwriter Michael W. Smith and arranged by Benjamin Harkan, be a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for the salvation we have received through Christ.

WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION STATEMENT—Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS? Please contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. For emergency pastoral care needs, please call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email pastor@lpbethel.org. **BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Wednesdays at noon. **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** 25th of the month. **CHURCH ADDRESS:** 77 Lincoln AVE N, PO Box 207, Lester Prairie, MN 55354

SIMPLY GIVING offers convenience for you and much needed consistency for Bethel! If you have any questions, contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at finsec@lpbethel.org. **TEXT GIVING:** To give text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES AVAILABLE—speak to an usher for assistance.
LARGE PRINT HYMNS AVAILABLE—contact the office if you are interested.

THIS WEEK..

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

- Noisy offering: drop your coins [cash or check] in the tin can on your way out of the sanctuary. (Supports Bethel Youth Camperships)
- Sunday School/Confirmation class: following worship
- Bethel Breakfast: 10:30 am at Longhorn's Burger House, Lester Prairie

MONDAY, APRIL 29

- Bible study: 1:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

- Quilting: 1:00-4:30 pm
- Choir practice: 6:30 pm
- WELCA meeting: 7:30 pm

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 5 (6 EASTER)

- Worship: 9:00 am
- Sunday school/Adult Education: following worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

May Book Club: *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides—A shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband—and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive. Discussion date: Wed., May 15, 7:30 pm

Cemetery lawn mowing job: The Cemetery Committee is looking for someone to mow both cemeteries this summer. Contact Jerry Christenson or Mary Lou Teubert

A Community Breakfast will be served by the Lester Prairie Lions at the LP City Hall on Sunday, May 5, from 9:00 am-Noon. Serving: pancakes, eggs, sausage, toast, juice and coffee. Free will donation. Proceeds support local Lions projects.

Mark your calendar! Fellowship by the Fire will return this summer-June 26, July 24, and August 21. The evening will begin at 6:00 pm, outside by the fire pit. WELCA will supply hotdogs and buns. Please bring a dish to share for our evening meal and your lawn chair.

A Wish List for Green Lake Bible Camp is posted on the bulletin board. Check out the Amazon Wish List on their website www/gllm.org/donate/htmlwishlist (*Click Give, Donate, then Wish List (under Ways to Give).*)

“Fountain of grace, rich, full and free,
What need I, that is not in thee?
Full pardon, strength to meet the day,
And peace which none can take away,
And peace which none can take away.”

*By nineteenth-century hymnwriter and architect, James Edmeston
A hymn text that fits well with today's reading from Acts.*