

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Living by Faith

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 25TH, 2025

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

*+ indicates to stand in body or spirit;
bold print indicates congregational responses*

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE *"Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"* arr. Nancy Raabe

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ AN EASTERTIDE THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

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 water, the mystery, and the life.

Holy God, you are the river of life; **you are the everlasting wellspring.**

In mercy and might you have freed us from sin and death **and raised us with Jesus.**

In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, **and in them we are born anew.**

Through these waters, **each of us is called and gifted for ministry,
in the church and in the world.**

Glory to you, O Lord, for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,

quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism

and the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all. Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN “*Gather Us In*” ELW #532 stanzas 1, 2, & 4



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of justification, With great joy we receive the gift of salvation which is ours not because of our own efforts, but because of the saving work of Christ. Grant us full access to the glory of your salvation, an abundance that is more than enough for all humankind, for the sake of our redeeming Christ. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION “God, Grant Us Mercy” VT #142 à la LUKE 18:9-14

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."



1. O God, you condemn the ones who boast of great deeds. *Refrain*
2. O God, your grace flows to all who humbly seek you. *Refrain*
3. For you disdain our haughty minds, our empty, prideful thoughts. *Refrain*
4. We fall before you, you who suffered in humility. *Refrain*

READING GALATIANS 1:13-17; 2:11-21

A reading from Galatians.

¹³You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. ...

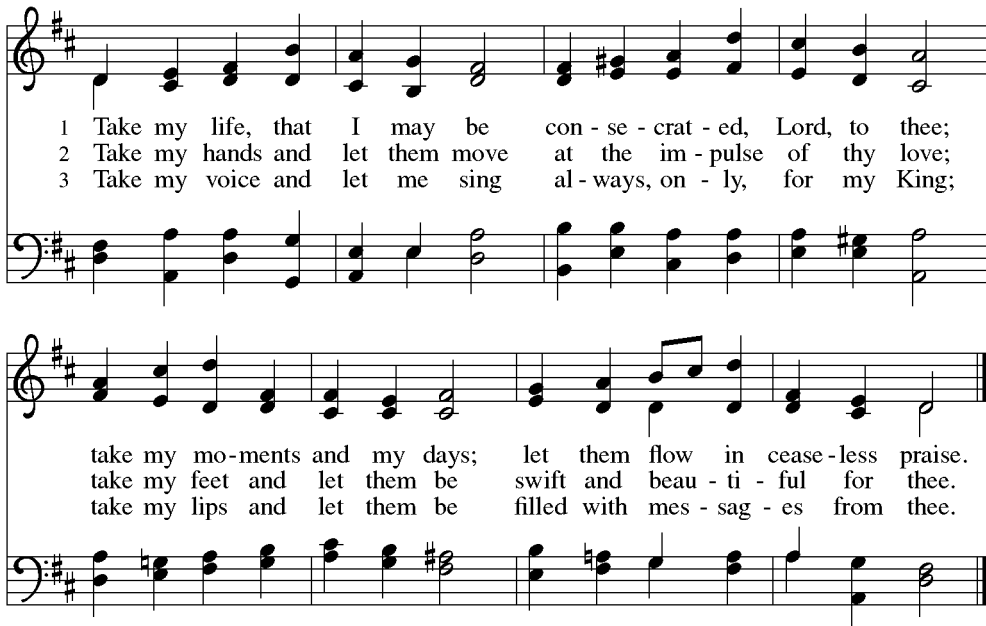
¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; ¹²for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. ¹³And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?" ¹⁵We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. ¹⁷But if, in our effort

to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. ¹⁹For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; ²⁰and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

+ **HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Take My Life, That I May Be"* ELW #685 stanzas 1-3



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING



Guests

Generosity is part of who we are as God's people. Guests can use their QR code to give via Breeze, Bethel's trusted online giving platform. Select "Member Faith Giving" to give to the general budget. Members can use their QR code to sign into Breeze to give a one-time gift or to schedule an automated donation. Online giving cards (at the name tag stations), checks, or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



Members

ANTHEM (8:30) *"Take My Life, That I May Be"* arr. Kristina Langlois
(10:30) *"We Walk by Faith"* arr. Marilyn Biery

+ OFFERTORY

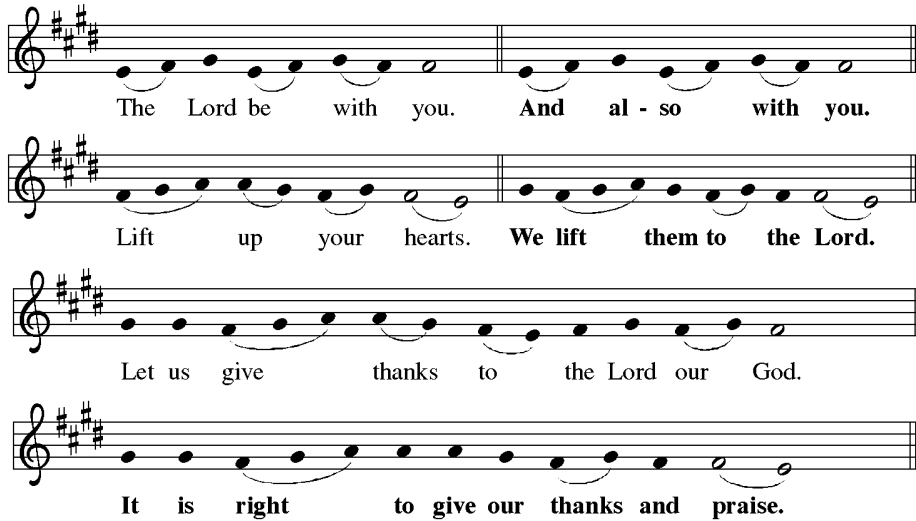


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

✠ MEAL ✠

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

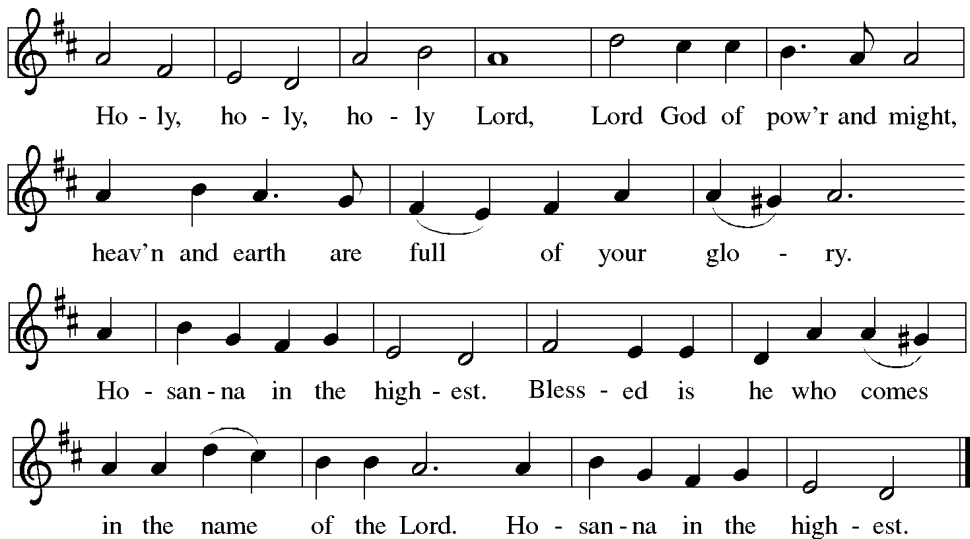
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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, who enthroned forever at your right hand intercedes for us as our great high priest. 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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.

Eternal and resurrected God, we marvel at all you accomplish in and with us. You open our eyes when we meet you on the road. You make our hearts burn with the truth of your word. You move our hands to serve the needs of your people. You proclaim your grace and claim all people as your own.

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

Through the miracle of Christ and the mystery of the Holy Spirit, you surprise us at every turn simply by keeping your promises: though we wander, you offer welcome; with your sacrifice, you achieve our redemption; from the darkness of death, you bring the light of new life. Walk patiently with us during this season of challenge and transformation, and give us strength to live out your promise in our world. **Amen.**

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ EL PADRE NUESTRO

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos,
santificado sea tu nombre;
venga a nos tu reino;
hágase tu voluntad,
así en la tierra como en el cielo;
el pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy;
y perdónanos nuestras deudas
así como nosotros perdonamos
a nuestros deudores;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentación;
mas libranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. **Amén.**

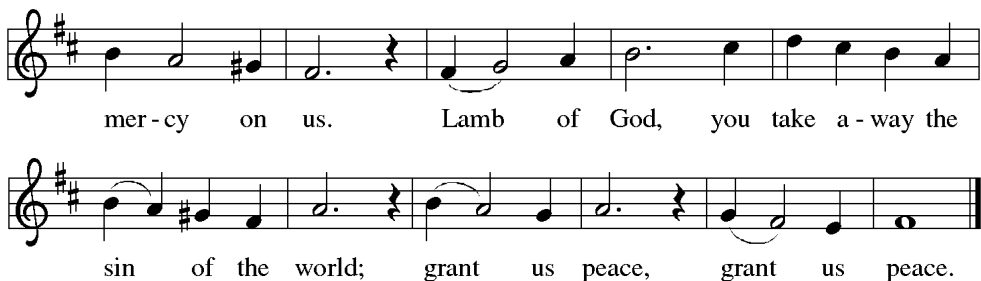
LAMB OF GOD



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



HOLY COMMUNION HYMN *"We Walk by Faith"* ELW #635

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un-be-lief; and
4 For you, O res-ur-rec-ted Lord, are
5 And when our life of faith is done, in
gra-cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
fol-low where you trod; but in your prom-ise
may our faith a-bound to call on you when
found in means di-vine: be-neath the wa-ter
realms of clear-er light may we be-hold you
none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
we re-joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near and seek where you are found:
and the word, be-neath the bread and wine.
as you are, with full and end-less sight.

+ TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

+ BENEDICTION

The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.
Amen.

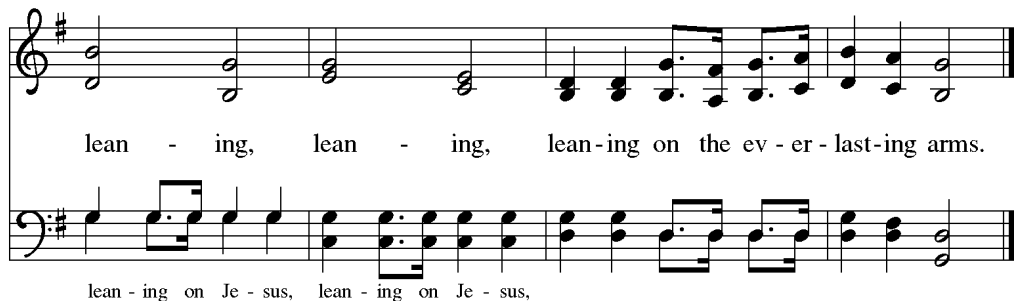
+ SENDING HYMN “*What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*” ELW #774

1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;
Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



+ DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”* arr. David Cherwien

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Ben Schori

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Anton Armstrong (10:30) Marci Groenewold

Ushers: (8:30) Dale Turnaclyff, Craig Grunzke, Harley Foster, and Bruce Dueffert
(10:30) Kelly Groenewold and Jason Pollington

Readers: (8:30) Paula Mathison (10:30) Darlene Broughton

Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Pastor. Phill Ruud, Barb Holm, Carol Cole, Beth Christensen, Clark Cary,
and Wendel Arneson (10:30) Sarah Marohl and Noa Marohl

Altar Care: (set) Phyllis Larson (clean) Marci Groenewold

Keyboards: Megan Engel

A/V Technicians: Sam Dwyer, Asher Engle, Nathan Hoekstra, Brent Kivell

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“God, Grant Us Mercy” Text: Greek; Kassia, 8th c.; trans. Katie Graber © 2019

Music: O PHARISEOS, Kassia; adapt. Katie Graber © 2019, transcr. Source Diane Toulaitos,
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The Eucharistic Prayer for Eastertide 2025 is written by Cynthia Carau.

We are using ELW Setting Four for our liturgy.

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THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM

MONDAY

Church Offices Closed—Memorial Day

TUESDAY

9:00 am



Quilting Group

9:45 am

Staff Meeting

6:00 pm

Face It

THURSDAY

8:30 am

MoB (Men of Bethel) (Room 54)

9:30 am

FaB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)

FRIDAY

9:30 am



WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day will be **Galatians 3:1-9; 23-29** (with Luke 1:68-79)
as we celebrate our seniors graduating high school!



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