



# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Paul and Silas in Prison*  
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3RD, 2026  
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

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

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

**PRELUDE (8:30)** *“Te Deum”* arr. Dean Wagner  
**(10:30)** *“This Joyful Eastertide”* arr. David Cherwien

### WORDS OF WELCOME

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.**

### + THANKSGIVING FOR THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

We bless you, almighty God, for the gift of water—  
for the oceans that surround the earth, for the rivers that nurture the land,  
for the lakes and rivers that you provide for our community—  
**We bless you, O God, for the waters of the earth.**

We honor you, merciful God, for showering us with water—  
for the rain that nourishes the plants and trees, for the floods that restore the fields,  
for the dew that freshens dry places—  
**We honor you, O God, for the waters you send.**

We glorify you, gracious God, for the waters of baptism—  
for the water of the Jordan that washed our Lord Jesus,  
for the waters that baptized the believers on Pentecost,  
for the water that illumines us with your Word,  
for the water that pours out the gifts of the Spirit,  
for the water that bathes the church universal—

the Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals, Evangelicals, independents—

**We glorify you, O God, for the waters of baptism.**

We worship you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

almighty, merciful, and gracious.

Well of forgiveness, you revive us,

Cup of cold water, you refresh us,

Pool of rebirth, you renew us.

**To you comes the worship of all your people, now and forever.**

**Amen!**

**+ GATHERING HYMN “Be Not Afraid” ELW #388**

*We will sing the hymn once through in unison, then all additional times in harmony.*

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn "Be Not Afraid". Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!". The first system is for unison singing, and the second system is for harmony.

**+ 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**

**God of freedom, even in prison Paul and Silas worshiped you. When you shook off their shackles, they found a way to liberate their jailer, too. Fill our hearts so that we too rejoice in you at all times and in all situations, and show us how to be part of the transformation of oppressors. Amen.**

**ANTHEM (10:30)** "I'm Going on a Journey" arr. Mark Hayes

(10:30) *At this time, children age 3 to grade 5 are invited to go to Sunday School.  
They will return to the sanctuary before communion.*

**✠ WORD ✠**

**+ SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION** "Jesus Christ is Waiting" VT #287

*The first stanza is sung before the reading of the gospel.  
After the reading, the second stanza is sung.*



3. Je - sus Christ is heal - ing, heal - ing in the streets, cur - ing those who  
4. Je - sus Christ is danc - ing, danc - ing in the streets, where each sign of



suf - fer, heal - ing those he greets. Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, I have  
ha - tred he, with love, de - feats. Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, I should



pit - y too; let my care be ac - tive, heal - ing just like you.  
tri - umph too: where good con - quers e - vil let me dance with you.

**+ HOLY GOSPEL** LUKE 6:18-19, 22-23

The gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>22</sup>"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## READING ACTS 9:1-19A

A reading from Acts.

<sup>16</sup> One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave 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 the 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, these Jews, are disturbing our city <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being 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 in 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY "O God, Our Refuge" VT #434 *The first stanza will be sung as a solo.*



1. O\_\_\_ God, our re - fuge\_\_\_ is your\_\_\_ love, where\_
2. In\_\_\_ love we do the\_\_\_ work of\_\_\_ faith, for\_\_\_
3. When\_ ty - rants taunt with\_\_\_ shame and\_\_\_ fear your\_\_\_
4. O\_\_\_ God, our ref - uge\_\_\_ is your\_\_\_ love; no\_\_\_



truth and spir - it bid us stand; through hum - ble crea - tures  
 jus - tice'sake we share our bread; as Ma - ry chose the  
 joy - ful com-fort guides our speech; and e - ven hemmed by  
 fear can take us cap - tive when we fol - low your cou -



you re - veal the might and won - der of your hand.  
 bet - ter part, we search and stu - dy what you've said.  
 pris - on walls, we find your strength with - in our reach.  
 ra - geous Lamb, then leap the walls. A - men, a - men.

**+ NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
 the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father,  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven,  
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
 and became truly human.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the Scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### + 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** *"In dir ist freude, BWV 615"* J.S. Bach

### + OFFERTORY



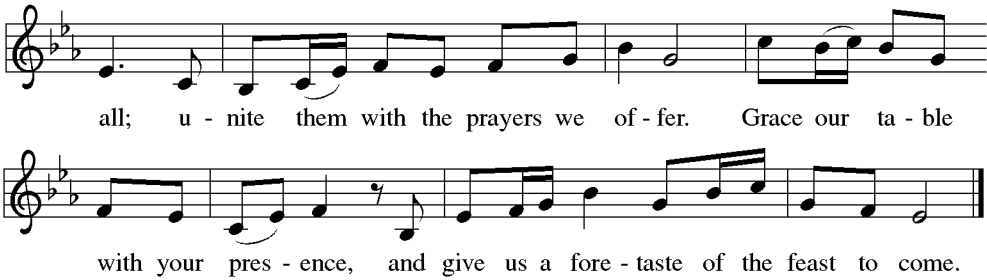
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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

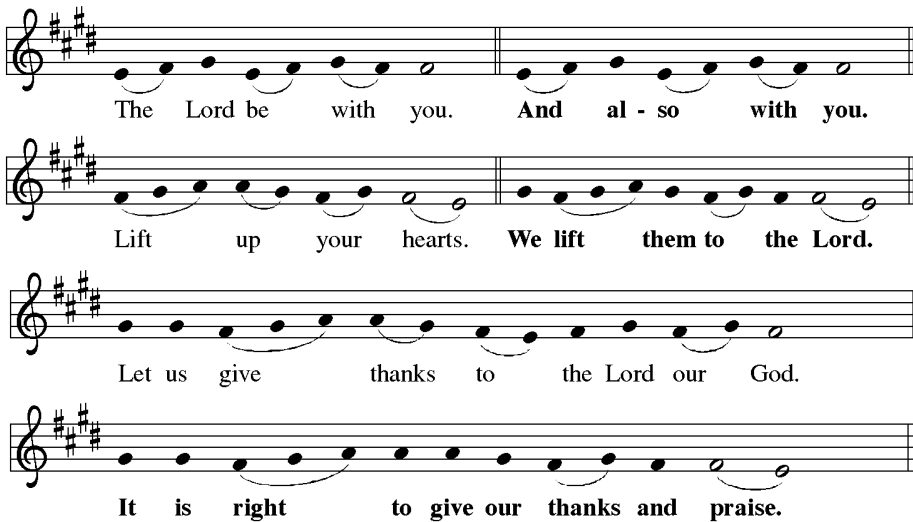


all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**+ OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**✠ MEAL ✠**

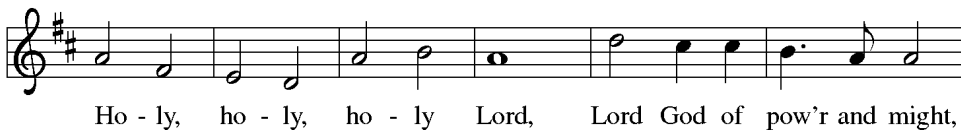
**+ GREAT THANKSGIVING**



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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your spirit poured out on all nations.

*The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución*

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moons and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **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.

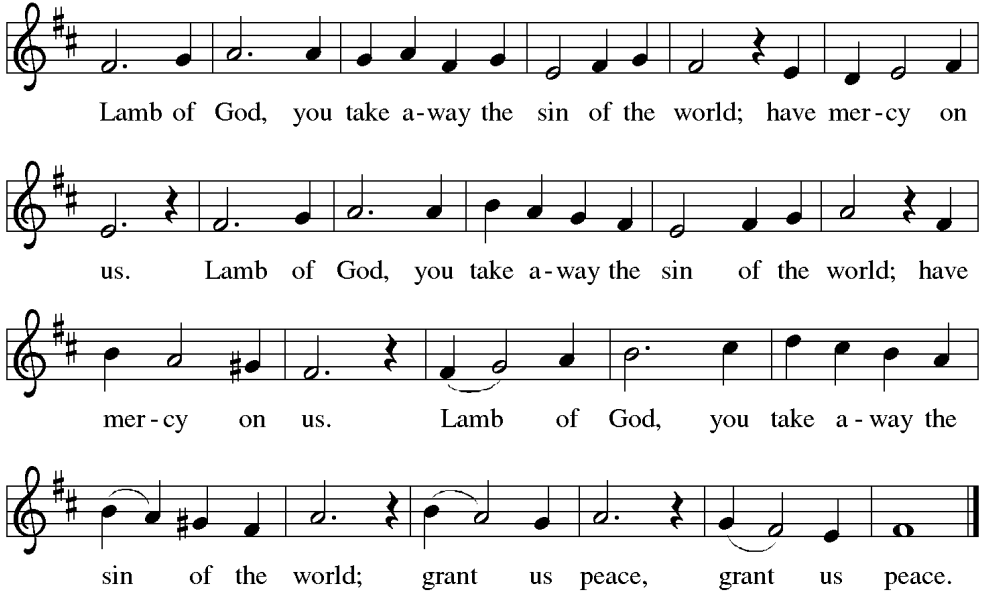
**+ EL PADRE NUESTRO**

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;

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.

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

#### HOLY COMMUNION HYMN *"This Joyful Eastertide"* ELW #391

#### + TABLE BLESSING

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

#### ✠ SENDING ✠

ANTHEM (8:30) *"I'm Going on a Journey"* arr. Mark Hayes

#### + BENEDICTION

May the persecuted Christ who converted Paul convert us.  
May the Spirit give us all courage and joy in believing.  
May we be new creations—Christ for those to whom Christ shall send us.  
And may the blessing of God, life-Creator, life-Redeemer and life-Sustainer,  
be with us and remain with us forever. **Amen.**

+ **SENDING HYMN** “*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*” ELW #392 stanzas 1 & 2

+ **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!**

**POSTLUDE** “*Hyfrydol with ‘Wie will ich mich freuen’ from Cantata 146*” J.S. Bach; arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori

Acolytes: (8:30) Josephine Lancaster

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Janice Lehmkuhl (10:30) Ellen Haefner

Ushers: (8:30) Bruce Dueffert, Craig Grunzke, Harley Foster, Dale Turnacliff  
(10:30) Rebecca Benedict, Marv Farmer

Readers: (8:30) Maryann Kaul (10:30) Darlene Broughton

Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Judy Code, Maryann Kaul, Rose Turnacliff, Phil Ruud  
(10:30) Darlene Broughton

Altar Care: (set) and (clean) Rosann Brawley, Rachel Coltvet (cups) Cynthia Carau

Director of Brio: Jill Mahr

Director of Singing Shenanigans: Abby Atizinger Flute: Mia Ibanez

Keyboards: Megan Engel

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

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Cover: “*Paul and Silas in Prison*” by Paul Oman / Drawn to the Word

“*Jesus Christ Is Waiting*” Text: John L. Bell & Graham Maule, © 1988 WGRG, Iona Community  
(admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Tune: NOËL NOUVELET, French traditional, 15th c.

“*O God, Our Refuge*” Text: Brenda Hostetler Meyer; inspired by the writings and recorded testimonies of Anabaptist martyrs in the 16th c., © 2019 Brenda Hostetler Meyer. Music: © 2019 The Walking Roots Band; acc. Susan See.

Modified from the Anglican Church in Aetearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, 1988.

We are using ELW Setting Four for our liturgy. The Eucharistic Prayer is ELW Form IV.

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship,

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SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

April 26	in person attendance
8:30	168
10:30	100
Total	268

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day will be **Acts 17:16-31**,  
and John 1:16-18.  
Pastor Ben will preach.

**Bethel Lutheran Church  
Shares Christ's Love with a Big Heart**

Called by the gospel of Jesus Christ, Bethel celebrates all people as children of God.

We welcome you: your age, ability, and education;  
your race, ethnicity, and citizenship;  
your sexual orientation, gender identity and expression;  
your relationship status and family structure.

Your uniqueness is valued.

Your questions and doubts have a home here.

Our work of welcome includes loving, forgiving, and serving one another;  
advocating for those who are marginalized and oppressed;  
striving for racial equity and economic justice;  
and caring for the earth and all of God's creation.



We invite you to fully participate in the life of Bethel.



# THIS WEEK—MAY 3RD—MAY 9TH

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY—THURSDAY 9 AM - 3 PM



## MONDAY

- 12:00 pm  Bible Study @ the Vault (1520 Clinton Lane)  
5:00 pm Special Personnel  
5:00 pm Worship & Arts Action Team  
6:30 pm  Resonance Bell Choir (Adults)


## TUESDAY

- 9:45 am Staff Meeting

## WEDNESDAY

- 3:30 pm Limitless  
5:30 pm RIC Meeting  
5:45 pm  Bistro (Pizza / Salad Bar)  
6:30 pm NC Trip Update Meeting  
7:00 pm Last Hang Time: End-of-Year BBQ  
7:00 pm  Church Choir Rehearsal

## THURSDAY

- 8:30 am MoB (Men of Bethel) (Room 54)  
9:30 am FaB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)  
10:45 am  OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) Bible study & fellowship  
2:00 pm Monthly Movie (*Cool Hand Luke*)  
4:00 pm Youth Plant Sale Set Up  
7:00 pm Bethel Vision Seekers @ the Fairfield Inn  
7:00 pm Finance

## FRIDAY

- 9:15 am WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom  
3:15 pm Youth Plant Sale Delivery



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