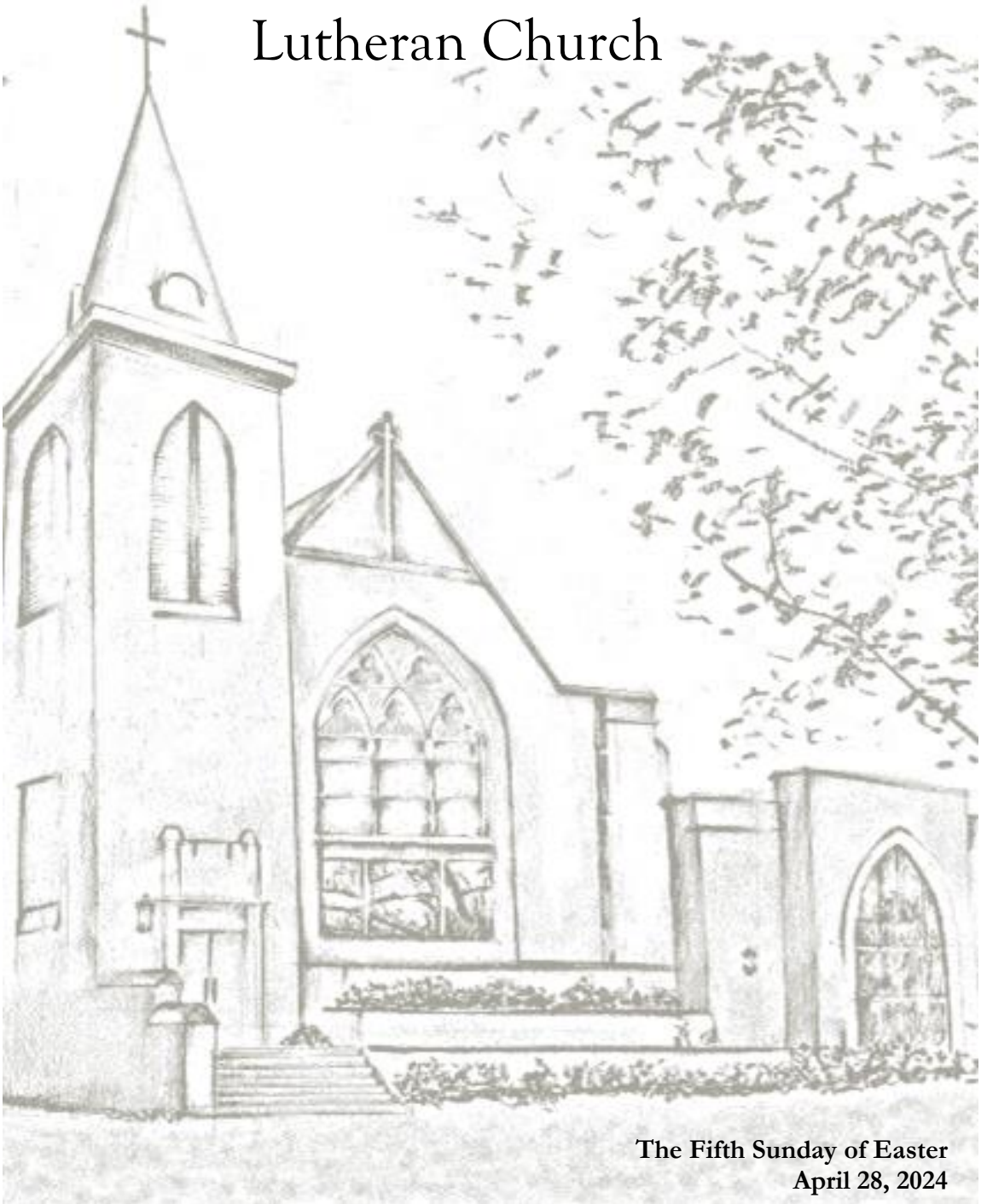


# BETHANY

Lutheran Church



The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024

# WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **Welcome**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. We are blessed by your presence. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome all God's people to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve.

Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Bethany. If you have questions for the pastor or church office, please call at 630.879.3444 or visit our website at [www.bethanybatavia.org](http://www.bethanybatavia.org). Welcome!

## **Assistance in Worship**

For those who find it difficult to stand or prefer to sit during any part of the service, please feel free to remain seated.

## **Children's Resources**

Children's worship bulletins are available in the narthex and from the ushers. Busy Bags outside the sanctuary for ages 1-6 years.

## **Nursery**

While not staffed, the nursery is open for parents who may find it helpful. The nursery is located on the sanctuary level, where you will find a changing table, rocking chair and some toys. You can still hear the worship service through a speaker in the room. Ask an usher if you need assistance.

## **Cell Phones and Pagers**

Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Thank you.

## **Flowers**

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Bill and Debbie Garrison in celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

## **Holy Communion**

In Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All are invited to the table where Christ himself is host.

## **As We Gather:**

Raising children means fielding questions. One of the most common questions in many families is, "Why not?" What do you mean I can't ride my bike without a helmet, or skip the vegetable course, or stay up until midnight? *Why not?* Usually, we have answers. But occasionally our children stump us, and we're forced to yield. As the gospel began to spread outward from Jerusalem, Philip the Evangelist and the Ethiopian Eunuch are brought together by the Spirit. Their statuses - racial, religious, sexual, socioeconomic - would have kept them apart were it not for the gospel. But hearing the gospel proclaimed by Philip, the Eunuch sees water and asks, "What is to prevent me from being baptized?" His "Why not?" question cuts through centuries of inverted boundaries and brings them both to the only source of true life: the risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Lutheran Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.*

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

*This type of note, offering directions about the service is called a "rubric," which comes from the Latin word rubrica (red) – referring to a time when these instructional notes were always written in red.*

## + GATHERING +

*Worship often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare their minds and hearts for worship.*

**PRELUDES:** Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing!  
Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Jason W. Krug  
Jason W. Krug  
Youth Bells

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We begin our worship as a gathered community by praising God in song.

We stand and face the processional cross.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!**

**ELW #377**



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

*During the Easter season we give thanks for the sacrament of baptism wherein we participate in Christ's death and resurrection to new life. In the waters of baptism we die to sin and are raised to new life.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.  
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.  
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, both now and forevermore.

C **Amen.**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

C **And also with you.**

*The Gloria, or some other song of praise, centers the service on the God we gather to praise in our worship.*

**HYMN OF PRAISE: Worthy Is Christ**

Richard Hillert

**C** This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [I] Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ 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. ☐ 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. ¶ For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 ¶ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*The prayer of the day, or collect, is appointed for each Sunday and “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

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.

C **Amen.**

*We sit.*

# + WORD +

*During the Easter season this reading is often from The Acts of the Apostles which is a record of the founding of the Christian church following the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.*

## **FIRST READING:** Acts 8:26–40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**



*The psalms are prayers that Jesus used and cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another. The biblical book of Psalms is the hymnal of ancient Israel, many written for use in temple worship.*

## PSALM 22:24–30

*The choir sings the Refrain once; the congregation repeats and joins in singing twice each time thereafter.*

### REFRAIN



- L My praise is of him in the | great assembly;\*
- I will perform my vows in the presence of those who | worship him.
- C **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**  
**and those who seek the | Lord shall praise him:\***  
**"May your heart | live forever!"**
- L All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord,\*  
and all the families of the nations shall | bow before him.
- C **For kingship belongs | to the Lord;\***  
**he rules o- | ver the nations.**
- L To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow | down in worship;\*
- all who go down to the dust | fall before him.
- C **My soul shall live for him; my descend- | ants shall serve him;\***  
**they shall be known as the | Lord's forever.**
- L They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn\*  
the saving deeds that | he has done.

### REFRAIN

*This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.*

## SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7–21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

*The Gospel acclamation, or sometimes sequence hymn, moves us toward the summit of the Liturgy of the Word – the reading of the Holy Gospel. Gospel means “good news” – specifically the “good news of Jesus.”*

**SEQUENCE HYMN:** This Joyful Eastertide

This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
sprung to life this mor - row. Had Christ, who once was  
slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in  
vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -



Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934  
 Music: VRUECHTEN, Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.

*This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.*

**HOLY GOSPEL:** John 15:1–8

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. It illuminates the day’s scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Jeff Mikyska  
 John 15:1–8



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932  
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
 Text © John B. Geyer.

*The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" for "I believe." First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and confirmed in 381 AD, the Nicene Creed reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.*

**NICENE CREED**

L Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:  
 C **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.

*We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the Universal Church, all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church – the Body of Christ.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

L Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

L We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L For this congregation for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,  
Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## + MEAL +

*We share Christ's peace with each other as a sign of charity and unity in preparation for the Holy Communion.*

### PEACE OF CHRIST

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*We sit.*

*Having confessed our sins, received forgiveness, listened to the Word of God and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offering we gratefully offer back to God some of what he has given us, symbolically in the gifts of bread and wine prepared at the table and the money we give.*

**OFFERING MUSIC:** Come Away to the Skies

Richard Erickson

Come away to the skies, my beloved, arise and rejoice in the day you were born:  
On this festival day, come exulting away, and with singing to Zion return.

For thy glory we were first created to share both the nature and kingdom divine;  
Now created again, that our lives may remain throughout time and eternity thine.

We with thanks do approve the design of that love which has joined us to Jesus' name;  
So united in heart, let us nevermore part, till we meet at the feast of the Lamb.

Hallelujah we sing to our Father and King, and our rapturous praises repeat:  
To the Lamb that was slain, hallelujah again; sing, all heaven, and fall at his feet.

*We stand.*

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

C **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."*

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

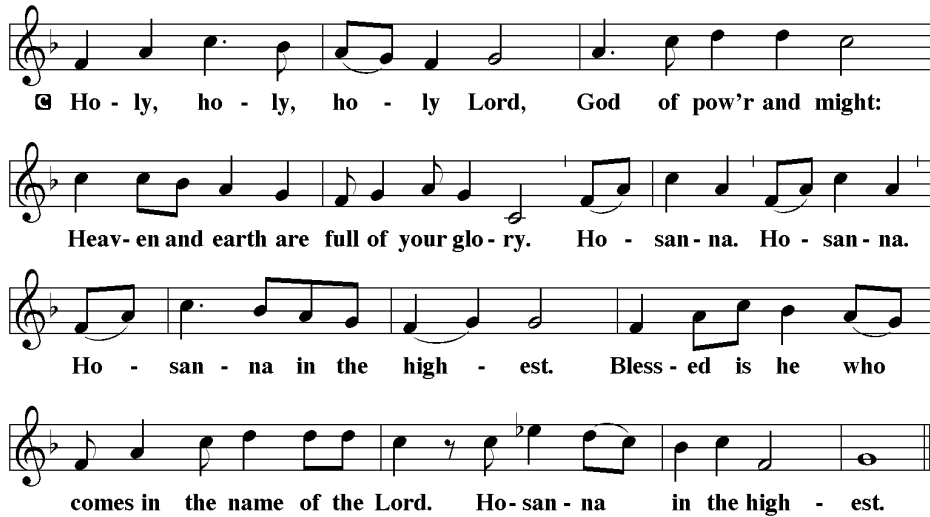
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and all of us who are rooted in Christ, with the earth and the sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

*The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3.*



**H**o - 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.

*We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the Last Supper.*

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
You have filled all creation with light and life;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt,  
the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets;  
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,  
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed  
and was obedient to your will, even to the giving of his life.

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.

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood,  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

*We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.*

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C 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.**

P These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

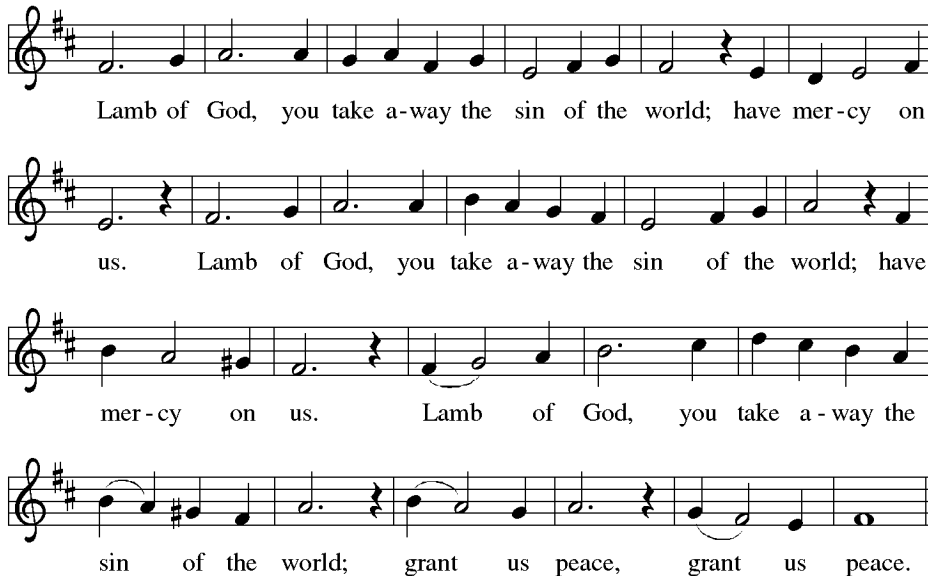
**C Thanks be to God.**

P All are welcome at the Lord's table. Come, for all is now ready.

*We sit.*

*Echoing both John 1:29 and Revelation 5:6, this song addresses the risen Christ giving himself away at this table as the true Lamb.*

## AGNUS DEI



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.

## COMMUNION

*Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to his holy banquet. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink. White grape juice, a non-alcoholic alternative, are the cups in the center of each wine tray, and gluten-FREE rice wafers are available upon request.*

# MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

## HYMN: There in God's Garden

ELW #342



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Music © 1987 Birmamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
 vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
 prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

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*We stand.*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C **Amen.**

L Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Sending reminds us that every Sunday worship gathering is a cycle, existing for a time and then dispersing. We arrive at the “sending” after traveling from the rite of gathering to the word and meal. We heard and proclaimed the Word; we were nourished at the Meal; and now we complete the cycle. We have encountered the living Christ in this place and are empowered for ministry in the world.*

## + SENDING +

### **BENEDICTION**

P You call us to bear fruit in Christ.

Almighty God: Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forevermore.

C **Amen.**



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

**DISMISSAL**

L Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE:** Triumphal March

Jean Rameau

## **LEADING WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Jeffrey Mikyska, Presiding Minister  
Pastor Steve Ritter, Worship Leader  
Alan Spear, Organist  
Jori Toles, Reader  
Kathy Richmond, Becky Klitzkie, Altar Guild  
Graham Gustafson, Michael Goro, Acolytes  
Ralph Beck, Usher  
Pastor Steve Ritter, Ruth Beck, Susan Walz,  
Comm. Asst's  
Festival Choir  
Youth Bells  
Morgan Hutchens, Flute

## **STAFF**

Jeffrey Mikyska, Senior Pastor  
Mark Waldron, Director of Music  
Alan Spear, Organist  
Darlene Hutchens, Church Administrator  
Susan Jarocki, Administrative Assistant  
Emma Hess, Youth Director  
Ed McQuillan, Financial Secretary

## **YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Todd Toles, President  
Alan Spear, Vice President  
Marsha Schuster, Secretary  
Steve Mickelson, Treasurer  
Doug Boehm  
Karol Clark  
Brad Hirt

Dale Howard  
Billy Hutchens  
Rich Kreis  
Pastor Jeff Mikyska  
Kathy Richmond  
Mia Rusev  
Lane Stahl

If you have questions or concerns for members of the Church Council you're invited to speak with them personally or via email to [council@bethanybatavia.org](mailto:council@bethanybatavia.org).

Bethany's Vision: We are a Grace-based, people-powered, refuge for all.

Code of Conduct: Staff and volunteers at Bethany should live a faithful life in service with charity, kindness and integrity. They should treat others with respect and understanding, act responsibly, and serve as an example of Christian faith in action.

## **Liturgy Credits**

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## LET US PRAY...

*We pray for all who are hospitalized in our greater community and for those who are serving them.*

### Please pray for those who are part of the life of Bethany who struggle with illness and other concerns:

**Maureen Scollen**, Dorothy Anderson, Mary Bradtmueller,, Diane Garland, Shirley Grant, Anna Jackson, Mike & Deb Hraby, Karin Johnston, Kris Kaar, Luke & Diane Land, Joan Munro, Bob Novy, Dorothy Patzer, Louise Pruitt, George & Shirley Striedl, Bev Waterfield, Sandi Wilcox

### Please pray for those who are homebound and those in a care facility:

Mark Anderson	Bria, Geneva
Marie Holtz	Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad
Bill Keele	Heritage Woods
Pam Klingberg	Heritage Woods
Wanda Krentz	Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad
Joan Olson	Michaelsen Health Center, Holmstad
Jay & Carol Wierz	Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad

### Please pray for all those serving in the military, especially those who are connected to our congregation.

Owen Schuster  
Steven Surdyski

### Please pray for our family and friends:

#### **Tecla Reklau**

Angelo Campagna  
Kate and Family  
Ron Slack  
Ted Grandquist  
Pat McDonald  
Sandy & Dale Christianson  
Sofie  
Geneva Isham  
Family of Joe Fornero  
Geri Vincent  
Owen Libley  
Ron Krukewitt  
Pam Waers  
Terri Wells  
Patricia Lusted  
Rosi  
Larry Richmond  
Neil Weir  
Jim Martin  
Lili  
Lisa  
Fr. Matt BeBlock  
Doug  
Mary Weinert  
Richard Tabor  
Carl C.  
Student at Genoa-Kingston Middle School  
Marcia McDugle  
Molly & Mike Updyke  
Robert & Vicki Johnson  
Bonnie & Jim Hines  
Kristen Benakis  
Pat Pydo  
Todd Streidl  
Marilyn  
Tracy Clark  
Lee Peterson

#### **Wife of Pastor Reklau**

Kari (Ed) McQuillan's Dad  
Friend of John & Karol Clark  
Brother-in-Law of John & Karol Clark  
Former Pastor  
Brother-in-Law of Suzanne Grashorn  
Friends of Val Schalk  
Friend of Bob & Sue Novy  
Grandmother of Danny & Emma Hess  
7<sup>th</sup> Grader who passed away last week from Lemont  
Friend of Val Schalk  
Brother of Lois Benson  
Brother-in-Law of Sue DeLong  
Friend of Sue DeLong  
Friend of Lynn Dreymler  
Friend of Janice Reynolds  
Friend of Janice Reynolds  
Brother-in-Law of Kathy Richmond  
Friend of Todd Toles  
Brother-in-Law of Tom & Dee Schuman  
Friend of Tom & Dee Schuman  
Friend of Kathy Richmond  
Co-Worker's Son of Kathy Richmond  
Friend of Jan Bristow  
Sister-in-Law of Pam Klingberg  
Brother of Liesa Ritter  
Friend of Bethany Walking Group  
  
Friend of Bob & Sue Novy  
Daughter/Son-in-Law of George & Shirley Streidl  
Brother-in-Law/Sister-in-Law of Val Schalk  
Parents of Suzanne Grashorn  
Friend of Bob & Sue Novy  
Friend of John & Laura Peterson/Marty Offutt-Gruber  
Son of George & Shirley Streidl  
Friend of Tom & Dee Schuman  
Sister of Tara Shannon  
Friend of Dottie White

Loda George Ricker  
Calvin, Diane & Family  
Katie Taylor  
Jane Wirth  
Michelle Hartzell  
Rick Gaston  
Mary Hughs  
Dottie  
Lizzie Bork  
Jeffrey Campbell  
Damon Schultz  
Sue S.  
Nicole  
Chris Sidler  
Lisa  
Heather  
Gretchen VanKempema  
Ryan Anderson  
Lynne Morrow  
Kenzie  
Paul Mazen  
Heather Staudacher, Dr. Mark Staudacher & family,  
Phil  
Kathy Dee's Family  
Mary Jo Benstein's Family  
Susan Sheley  
Bonnie  
Carole W.  
Diane Ekstam Johnson  
Tammy English  
Jerry Martin  
Teri Prokes  
Tony Prokes  
Kelli Robertson  
Ed Stahl

Friend of Fred & Ann Holch  
Friends of Kathy Richmond  
Great Niece of Ken & Judy Henschler  
Friend of Ken & Judy Henschler  
Friend of Beth Richard  
Friend of Ann Holch  
Sister of Jackie Page  
Friend of Paulette Smigo  
Friend of Julie Howard  
Nephew of Nan Phillips  
Son-in-Law of Shyla Carbone  
Friend of Bob & Sue Novy  
Friend of Linda Sullivan  
Friend of Luke & Diane Land  
Friend of Beth Richard  
Friend of Schuman Family  
Daughter of Ann Holch  
Son of Aaron Anderson  
Friend and Colleague of Pastor Jeff & Gail  
Friend of Katie Robertson

Friend/Coworker of Beth Richard  
Lynn Dreymler's brother  
Teri Figura  
Teri Figura  
Daughter of Louise Pruitt  
Friend of Pastor Jeff  
Friend of Ann & Fred Holch  
Mother of Mary Helen Ekstam  
Daughter of Shirley Streidl  
Father of Nicki McVey  
Sister of Sue & Bob Novy  
Brother-in-law of Bob & Sue Novy  
Daughter of Diane Schalk  
Father of Dan Stahl

**Please pray for those who mourn the passing of:**

Jim Anderson  
Traci S.

Friend of Bob Nelson  
Friend of Pastor Jeff

MAY  
Anniversaries

5	Werner & Rose Rader	16	Brian & Tara Shannon	25	Matt & Susan Whitelaw
6	Mike & Carol Thomassen	19	Barry & Sue Carney	30	Viriden & Mary Von Qualen
12	Tim & Sue West	21	Jon & Marsha Habegger		
14	Lyn & Sandra Daunheimer	24	Iz & Jen Lopez, Jr		

MAY  
Birthdays

2	Katie Ann Buell	13	Lyn Daunheimer	23	Sue Walz
4	Joseph Burke	13	Carie Holzl	24	Ann Niedzwiecki
4	Callum Galeski	13	Karin Johnston	24	Julia Solberg
4	Kyle Niedzwiecki	13	Tracy Mathisen	24	Valentina Solberg
5	Jan Beil	13	Jeff Mikyska	25	Nancy Freedlund
5	Mindy Nicoloff	13	Maggie Walz	26	Leslie Grashorn
5	Sue West	15	Maddie Haug	26	Ryan Grashorn
6	Xander Couperus	15	Alan Spear	27	Katie Brems
6	Jamie Figura	16	Tyler Mathisen	27	Sharon Cryer
6	Archer Ruhl	17	Matt Nallenweg	27	Amy Frankowski
6	Lila Storaasli	18	Dale Christianson	27	Dan Freedlund
7	Amanda Anderson	18	Marsha Habegger	27	Nancy Moe
9	Karl Holzl, Jr	18	Janna Stahl	28	Danise Simmons
9	Matthew Pfau	18	Kathy Symons	29	Olivia Depke
10	Ed McQuillan	20	Jim Freedlund	29	Pam Klingberg
11	Linda Sullivan	20	Diane Garland	30	Zachary Alwin
12	Marilyn Cornwell	21	Ralph Beck, Jr	30	Ryan Pieratt
12	Lisa Smigo	21	Anna Holzl		
12	Jerry Wagenknecht	21	Joan Olson		

**THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

**Sunday, April 28**

9am ..... Worship..... Sanctuary  
10am ..... Coffee Hour..... Fellowship Hall  
10:30am..... Sunday School..... Main Building/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
2:30pm ..... Hesed House Prep ..... Kitchen  
4:30pm ..... Hesed House Serving ..... Hesed House

**Monday, April 29**

8:30am..... Bethany Walking Group ..... Ministry Center Gym

**Tuesday, April 30**

8:30am..... Bethany Walking Group ..... Ministry Center Gym  
9am ..... Quilters/Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... Fellowship Hall  
6:30pm ..... Girls BSA Troop 606 ..... Vlahn Room/Gym

**Wednesday, May 1**

8:30am..... Bethany Walking Group ..... Ministry Center Gym  
6:30pm ..... Youth Gathering Meeting (Tentative)..... Youth Room/Chapel  
7pm..... Men’s Basketball..... Ministry Center Gym

**Thursday, May 2**

8:30am..... Bethany Walking Group ..... Ministry Center Gym  
6pm..... Bell Choir..... Balcony  
6:30pm ..... Boy Scout Troop 6..... Vlahn Room/Gym  
7pm..... Festival Choir..... Sanctuary

**Friday, May 3**

8:30am..... Bethany Walking Group ..... Ministry Center Gym  
1pm..... Court Watch..... Lower Level/Fellowship Hall  
4:15pm ..... Swedish American Children’s ..... Choir Room/Library  
Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, May 4**

7:30am..... Men’s Basketball..... Ministry Center Gym  
10am ..... Al-Anon ..... Library  
10am ..... Al-Ateen..... Lower Level  
8pm..... AA..... Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, May 5**

9am ..... Worship..... Sanctuary  
10am ..... Coffee Hour..... Fellowship Hall  
10:30am..... Sunday School..... Main Building/2<sup>nd</sup> Floor