



## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

### ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

MAY 12TH, 2024

8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

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

### ✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE “Hymn to Joy” arr. Jeanne Cotter

#### 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** *“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”* ELW #735

+ **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**

**Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM (10:45)** *“This Little Light of Mine”*

## ✠ WORD ✠

**A READING** *EPHESIANS 1:15-23*

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

+ HOLY GOSPEL *LUKE 24:44-53*

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

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

<sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

<sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

CHILDREN’S HOMILY & HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY “*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*” ELW #392 stanzas 1, 2, & 4

+ 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**

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

**+ SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

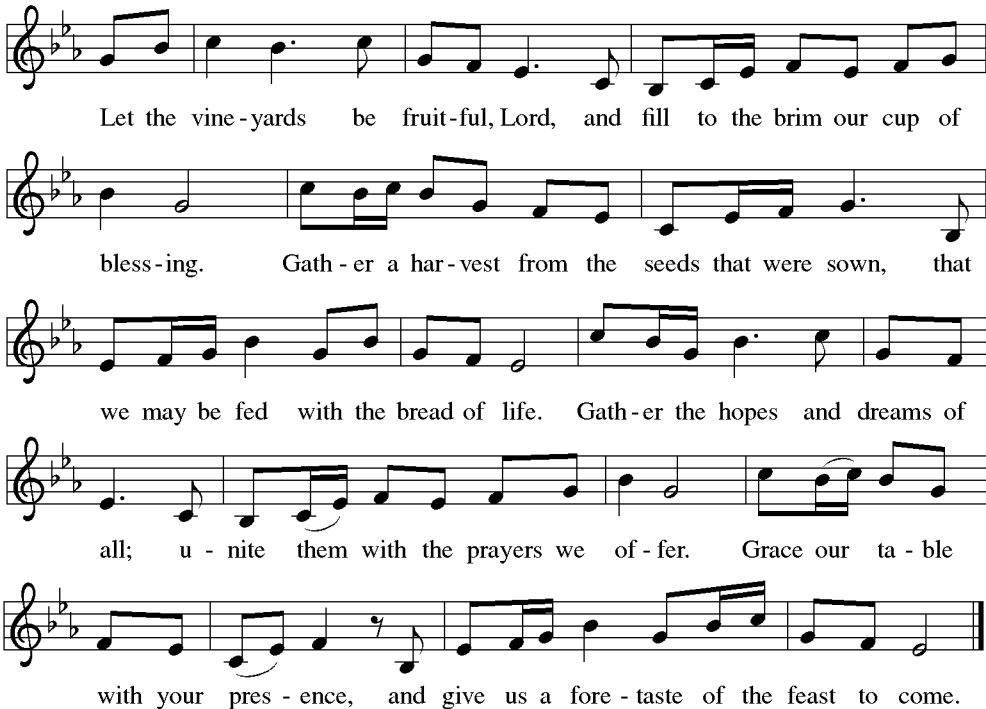
**OFFERING**

We pass the peace of Christ beyond our congregation and this moment through our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. Use this QR code for a one-time gift or to schedule an automatic donation through Breeze. Online giving cards (in the back of hymnal), checks or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



**ANTHEM (8:30)** *“Calm the Tempests of my Heart”* Text (adapt.) Kierkegaard; Elizabeth Alexander  
**(10:45)** *“Jesus, the Very Thought of You”* arr. Dale Wood

**+ OFFERTORY**

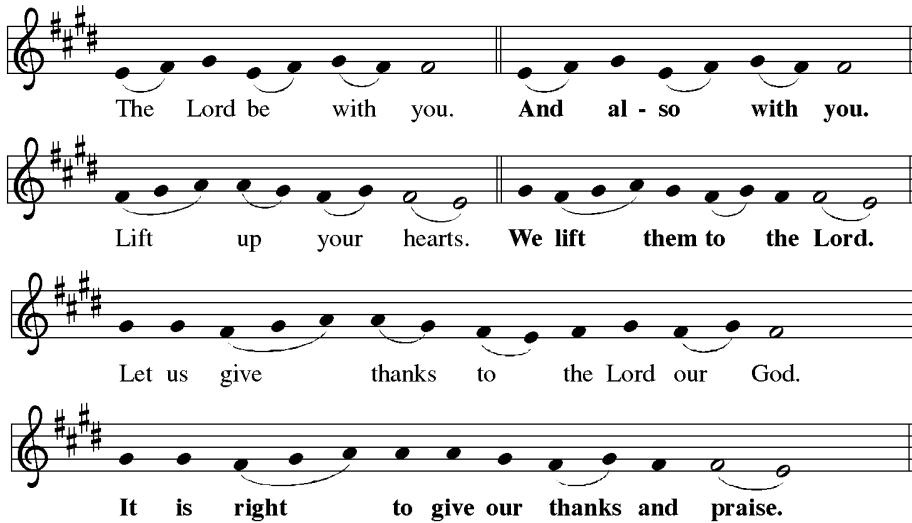


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and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

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

✠ MEAL ✠

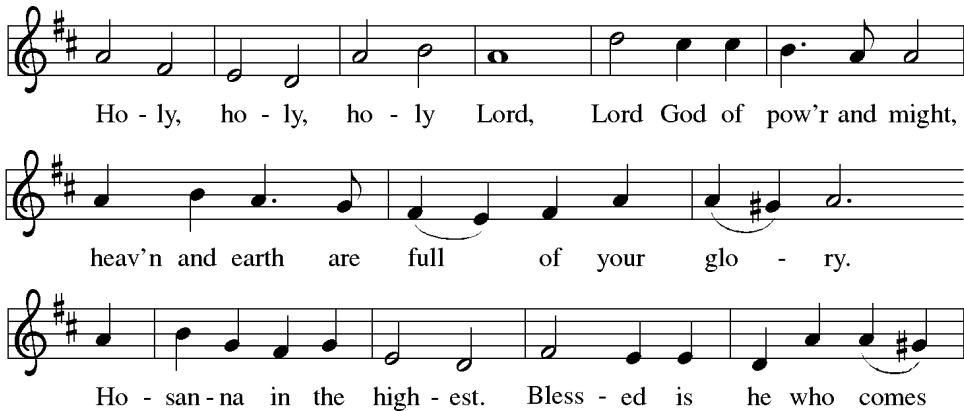
+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

What is written about you, God, in Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, show your purpose for your people and your love for the your world. In Jesus you fulfilled your promises and opened to us your heart. In his passion and death we saw the consequences of our rejection and the depth of your yearning. You raised Jesus from the tomb, and in his resurrection you invite us into the company of your eternal joy. In his ascension on high, you seal as complete that work.

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

Your Son told his disciples to stay in the city until they were clothed by the Spirit. Give courage to those who you call to stay in places of danger and confusion. Fill us with joy and praise as we trust in a fresh outpouring of your Spirit, and then send us as messengers of your mercy. **Amen.**

**+ THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Mother, who is in heaven and within us,  
we call upon your names.  
Your wisdom come.  
Your will be done,  
in all the spaces in which you dwell.  
Give us each day sustenance and perseverance.  
Remind us of our limits  
as we give grace  
to the limits of others.  
Separate us from the temptation of empire,  
and deliver us into community.  
For you are the dwelling place within us,  
the empowerment around us,  
and the celebration among us,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**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.**

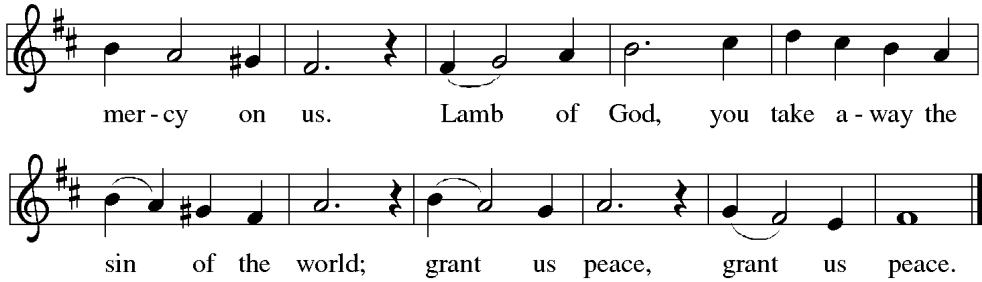
**LAMB OF GOD**



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 ANTHEM** *“Salm o Devi Sant (Psalm of St. David)”* Karl Jenkins

**+ TABLE BLESSING**

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

**+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed are you, Eternal God;  
**through this holy meal you have joined us to yourself and to one another.**  
Blessed are you, Incarnate God;  
**you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours.**  
Blessed are you, Breath of God,  
**as we go forth, set us free to follow where you lead. Amen.**

**✠ SENDING ✠**

**A BLESSING ON MOTHER’S DAY**

To those who have given birth: **we celebrate with you.**  
To those who have lost a child: **we mourn with you.**  
To those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising: **we anticipate with you.**  
To those who walk the hard path of infertility,  
fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment: **we walk with you.**  
**Forgive us when we say foolish things.**  
**We don’t mean to make this harder than it is.**  
To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, abortion, failed adoption, or running away:  
**we grieve with you.**  
To those who placed children up for adoption: **we honor your selflessness**  
**and remember how you hold that child in your heart.**  
To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children:  
**we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be.**  
To those who step-parent: **we walk with you on these complex paths.**

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms: **we need you.**

To those who do not wish to be a mother, do not fit into societal norms,  
and gift families and communities in other ways: **we appreciate you.**

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be:  
**we grieve with you.**

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of a food stain:  
**we see you.**

To those who have lived through driving tests, medical tests, SAT's and after school activities,  
and the overall testing of motherhood: **we are the better for having you in our midst.**

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year: **we grieve and rejoice with you.**

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children: **we sit with you.**

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children: **we celebrate with you.**

To those who can go to their mothers for comfort, support, and to share joy: **we rejoice for you.**

To those who experience abuse or neglect from your mother: **we acknowledge your hurt.**

To those who lost their mothers in mind, body, or spirit: **we mourn with you.**

Whatever Mother's Day means to you this year, may you know  
you are loved. You are seen. You are worthy.

And you are infinitely dear to our big, wild, beautiful God,  
who is the very best example of a parent that we know. **Amen.**

+ **SENDING HYMN** "*We Know That Christ Is Raised*" ELW #449

+ **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE** "*Hyfrydol (with Cantata 146 by J.S. Bach)*" arr. Sue Mitchell-Wallace