

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council at Jerusalem
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
& NEW MEMBER WELCOME

MAY 18TH, 2025
8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

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

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE “*Gospel Ring*” arr. Anna Laura Page

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.**

+ AN EASTERTIDE THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (8:30 AM)

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 *"Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"* ACS #977



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

+ 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 all, in Jesus you have made us all siblings in Christ. Our unity is not based on externals, but on your transformation of our hearts and the gift of your Spirit. Help us to support and celebrate all your disciples, and work your signs and wonders in our lives. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

ANTHEM ACCLAMATION *“Signs and Wonders”* arr. David Cherwien

READING *ACTS 15:1-18*

A reading from Acts.

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders.³ So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the gentiles and brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters.⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.⁵ But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us, ⁹and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

¹²The whole assembly kept silence and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the gentiles.¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, “My brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. ¹⁵This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

¹⁶ ‘After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,
¹⁷ so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the gentiles over whom my name has been called.
Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things ¹⁸ known from long ago.’

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

+ HYMN OF THE DAY *“In Christ There Is No East or West”* ELW #650

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS (8:30 AM)

New members are invited forward.

Greg & Jean Bussler

Janet Dale

Sam Dwyer

Al & Mary Fetting

Linde Manlove

Steve & Nancy Silcox

Eduardo Pazos, Nichole Carr, Eden & Elena

Jason Pollington, Megan Pratola, Preston & Michael

Dave & Holly Schoenbauer, Mari, Henry, & Andrew

Today, we widen the circle of the Bethel community.

Pulpit: We welcome you with joy!

Organ: We welcome you with excitement!

Pulpit: We gratefully embrace your gifts and talents.

Organ: We celebrate the ministry we will do together!

We look forward to growing in faith, in love, in hope, and in joy with you.

Holy and loving God, we are called together to worship you.

We come from a variety of backgrounds and contexts.

Some bring experience and wisdom; others offer fresh perspectives and questions.

Some are carrying heavy loads, while others’ hearts are light.

For some, this time is packed in among other activities and commitments;

for others, this time is free from other pressures.

Come, Lord Jesus, and renew us all in the power of your love.

We will greet one another with loving-kindness,

seeing and being seen in the light of Christ.

We will pray for and support friends and not-yet-friends;

open to possibilities, eager to connect to each other and to you.

Come, Lord Jesus, and bind us together in the power of your love.

We will serve you in this particular time and place, caring for others and the world you made, working for justice and peace. We will remember all your beloved beyond this gathering, especially any who are poor or oppressed.

Come, Lord Jesus, and channel through us the power of your love.

We will listen for your Word that we may grow in faith and continue to learn ever more about you, each other, and all your creation. **Come, Lord Jesus, and teach us the power of your love.**

Be glorified, O God, by our lives together: in our worship, fellowship, service and learning.

Come, Lord Jesus, fill and lead us with the power of your love.

+ 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.**

+ HYMN OF CELEBRATION (8:30) "Anthem" Gather #778



We are called, we are cho - sen. We are Christ for one an -
oth - er. We are prom - ised to to - mor - row, while we are for him to - day.
— We are sign, we are won - der. We are sow - er, we are seed. We are
har - vest, we are hun - ger. We are ques - tion, we are creed.

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

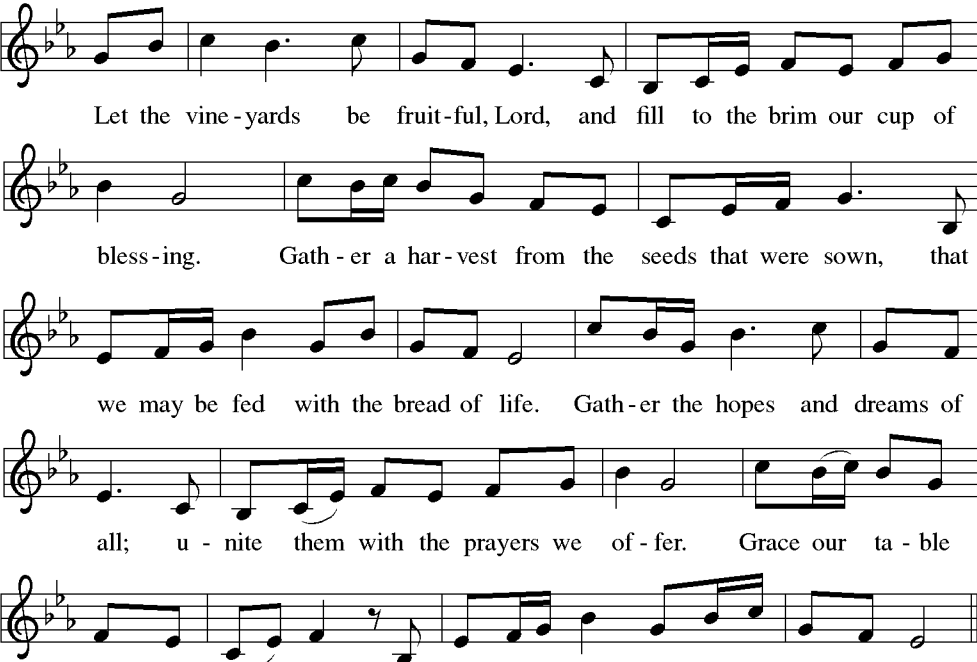
Generosity is part of who we are as God's people. Guests can use their QR code to give via Breeze, Bethel's trusted online giving platform. Select "Member Faith Giving" to give to the general budget. Members can use their QR code to sign into Breeze to give a one-time gift or to schedule an automated 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 "Praise God's Holy Name" Keith Hampton

+ OFFERTORY

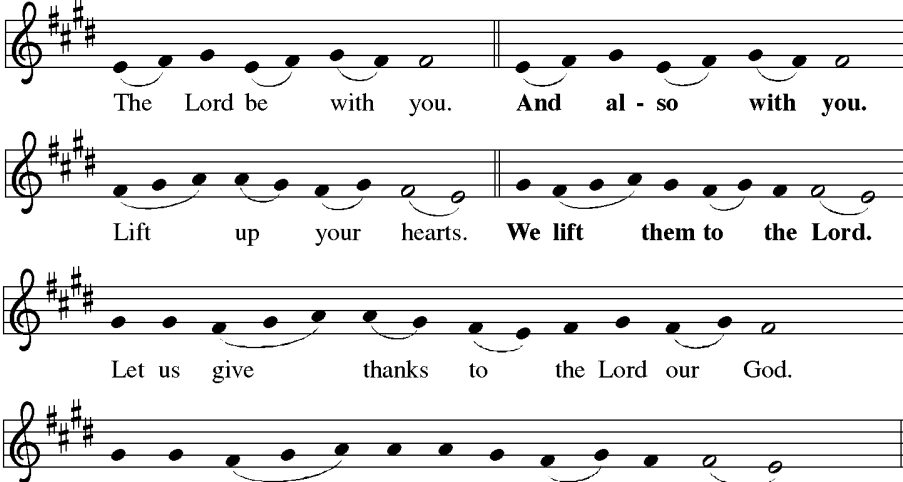


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
 with your pres-ence, and give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

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

✠ MEAL ✠

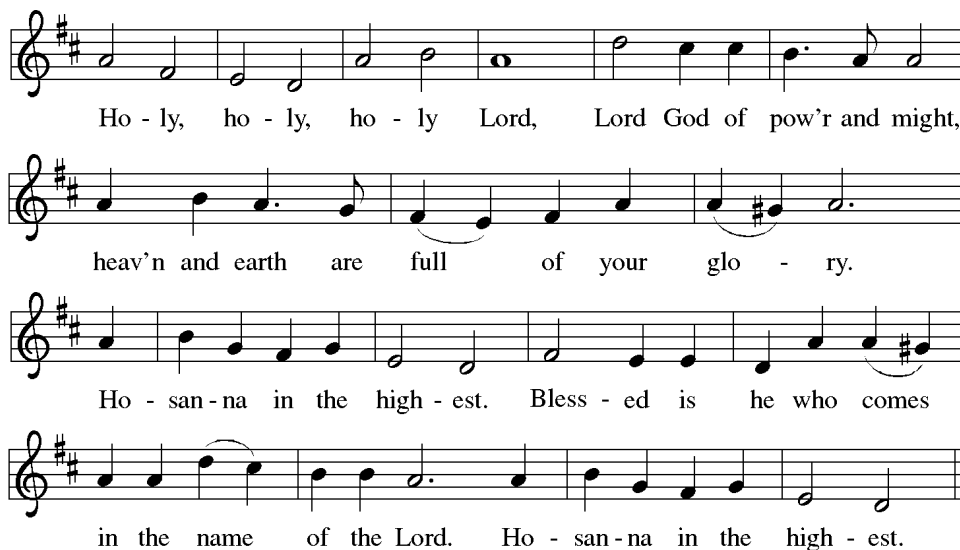
+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



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.

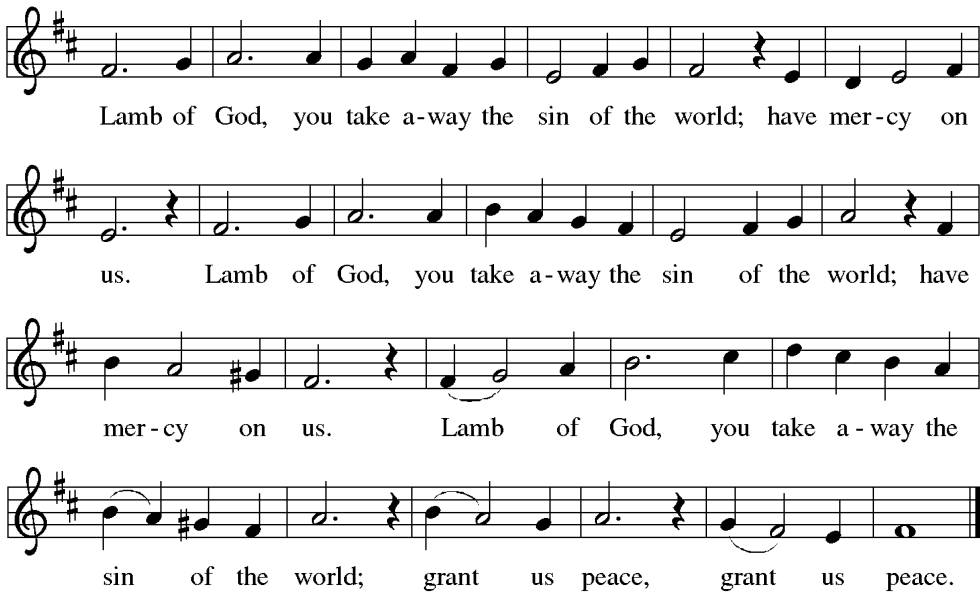
+ EL PADRE NUESTRO

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;

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 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 líbranos 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 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

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 “Christ Is Alive and Goes Before Us” Voices Together #565

The soloist will sing the verses. All sing the Refrain.

Refrain

Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and share what
love_ can do. This is the day of_ new be - gin - nings;
our God is mak - ing all things new,
our God is mak - ing all things new.

1. This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone. *Refrain*
2. For by the life and death of Jesus, love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again. *Refrain*
3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find. *Refrain*

+ DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE “*Fanfare for Organ*” Nicolas Jacques Lemmens

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori
Acolytes: (8:30) Josie Lancaster (10:45) Dane Headrick
Assisting Minister: (8:30) Becky Nystuen (10:45) Rolf Kragseth
Ushers: (8:30) Duane Uhl, Dale Turnacliff, Harley Foster, and Cal Feine
(10:45) Marv Farmer and Scott Broughton
Readers: (8:30) Bob Thacker (10:45) Jim Holden
Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Pastor. Phil Ruud, Phyllis Larson, Maryann Kaul, Barb Holm,
and Judy Code (10:45) Darlene Broughton
Altar Care: (set) Linda Zolnosky (clean) Linda Zolnosky

Director of Resonance: Cindy Carlson
Trumpet & Recorder: Gerry Hoekstra
Church Choir Director: Peter Schleif
Keyboards: Megan Engel
A/V Technicians: Sam Dwyer, Asher Engle, Nathan Hoekstra, Brent Kivell

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“*Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table*” Text: Thomas H. Troeger, © 2002 Oxford University Press.
Tune: COPELAND, © 2000 Michael Corzine, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

“*Anthem*” Text and music by Tom Conry, © 1978, 1994 OCP.

“*Christ is Alive and Goes Before Us*” Text: Brian Wren, © 1983 Hope Publishing Co.
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SUNDAY ATTENDANCE


May 11	in person attendance
8:30 am	202
10:45 am	78
Total	280

THIS WEEK
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM


TODAY!

9:45 am	New Member Reception
1:00 pm	Bethel @ Benedictine Chapel
2:00 pm	5th Grade Celebration

MONDAY

1:30 pm	 Bible Study @ the Vault (1520 Clinton Lane)
7:00 pm	Creation Care Team

TUESDAY

9:45 am	Staff Meeting
12:00 pm	Lydia Circle
3:00 pm	ARLA (Anti-Racism Learning & Advocacy)
5:15 pm	Personnel
6:00 pm	 Church Council

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day
will be **Galatians 1:13-17;**
2:11-21
(with Luke 18:9-14).

WEDNESDAY

4:30 pm	Homes for God's Children Team
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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
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