

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
May 14, 2023
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.**

During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill out one of the Visitor cards available at our Welcome Table in the Gathering Place.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 3, page 138

Pre-Worship Music/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: Amen.

P: 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 gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

C: Glory to you 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, 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.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn *This Joyful Eastertide* ELW #391

Greeting

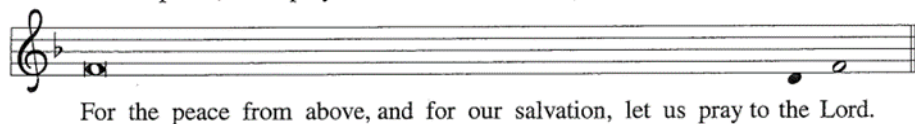
A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie (lead by Pastor Paul)

S 138



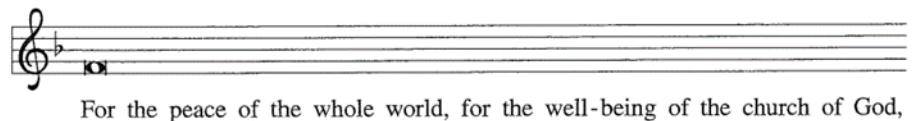
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



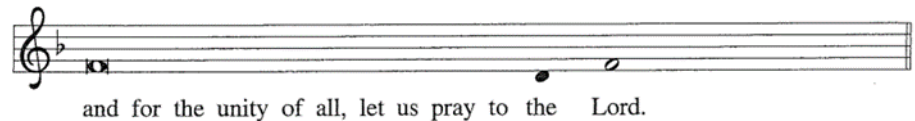
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



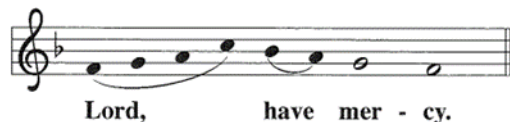
Lord, have mer - cy.



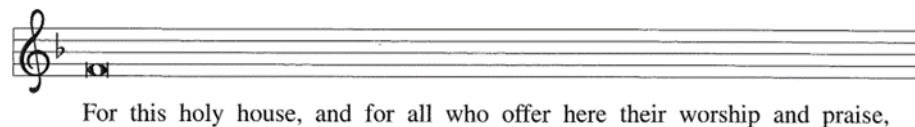
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Assisting minister S 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

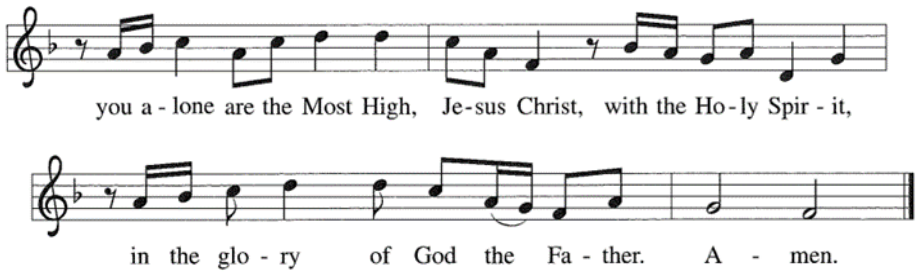
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together...

C: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Pr Paul

WORD

First Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

22 Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ 29 Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed

by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 66:8-20

8 Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

9 Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.

10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

11 You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

13 I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—

14 those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

15 I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.

16 Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

17 I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.

18 If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

19 but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

20 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

13 Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for

doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. 21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

Gospel

John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

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

Jesus said to the disciples: 15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

ELW #631

Recognition of New Members *(see insert)*

Apostle's 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 Intercession: response after each petition: **"Your mercy is great."** *(Before prayer)* A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need... *(Conclusion)* P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

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

MEAL

Offering *(Please be seated.)*

Offering Song: *Zeke Clemons*

Offertory *(Please stand, as able.) As the Grains of Wheat* *ELW #465*

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



S 144a

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.

Great Thanksgiving *(continued)*

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 144b

Ho - 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.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.
**Please note: Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.

Communion

Lamb of God

S 146

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.

Communion Hymns

*Thy Holy Wings
Here is Bread*

*ELW # 613
ELW # 483*

Post-Communion Blessing

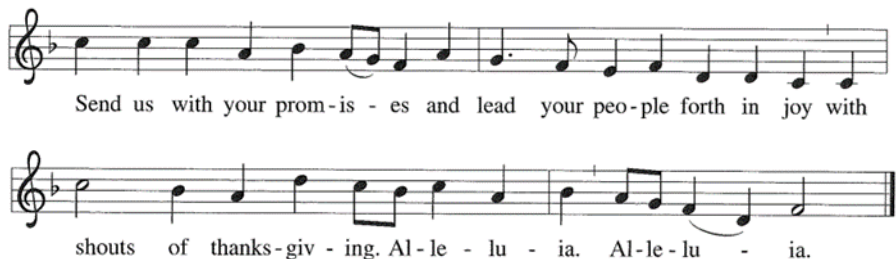
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

Thankful Hearts

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

(continued on next page)



Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessings for the Teddy Bear Brigade (aka "Prayer Bears")

P: Bless these teddy bears and the hands that hold them, as we pray this special poem together:

C: **Dear friend I'm just a teddy bear it's true,
But I have a message for you.**

I've been to church and sat in a pew;

I've been hugged and squeezed by quite a few.

I've bowed my head when they said a prayer;

I've been charged with love by those who care.

And now I've come to live with you

To bring you joy when you are blue.

To let you know that others care.

And want to help your burdens bear.

So, keep me close and squeeze me tight

and know God's love helps make things right.

Love, your teddy bear friends from Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

(With special thanks to the disciples at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, who made this poem and prayer.)

Blessing

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. C: **Amen.**

Sending Song *Now Thank We All Our God*

ELW #839

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem May 14, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehmtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/14—Landen Branch
5/16—Linda Gokey
5/16—Caleb Andrew Smith

5/17—Sally Erickson
5/17—Barbara Oster
5/18—Jim Achard

5/19—Jennifer Gaston
5/20—Brandon Bugai
5/20—Brandon Williams

Happy Mother's Day

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

Please Note:

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (**Beginning with the week of May 22nd, Phil will work Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**)

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

COVID UPDATE: As of 4/18/2023, masks are no longer required, regardless of vaccination status. A supply of masks will still be available for anyone who may be more comfortable wearing one. Please reach out to BLC Council with any questions or concerns.

Third Thursday: The next Third Thursday service will be Holden Evening Prayer service on May 18th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. **This will be our last Third Thursday service until September.**

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *Barbara Oster in Celebration of all the blessings I have received since I arrived in Michigan.*

BLESSINGS FOR THE TEDDY BEAR BRIGADE: Teddy Bears are both recipients of our affection and an encouragement for us to show love. Teddy Bears have become and remain our friends, even when all the soft fur wears off. These bears have been among our congregation and have heard the word, prayers, songs of praise and sermons preached. They have been given love and loved others. Now they will go with blessings of Joy, Love and Hope to our home bound "Bethlehem Stars," and shut-ins.

Community Movie Night is set for Saturday, May 20th at 6:30pm with the 2016 animated film *Sing* – popcorn and drinks will be provided. This is an intergenerational event – open to families and community not only from BLC but the TC community too.

Thank You for Cleaning: Bethlehem Lutheran Church is so blessed to have so many members who care about our church. We had 15 people stay after church to clean on May 7th. Thank you: Craig and Maureen Bauer, Tom and Jana Rockne, Carl and Suzanne Lehto, Tim and Peggy Goebel, Deb Hissong and Tom Fink, Jim Hinds, Barbara Wright, Nancy Ammann and Mike Henke. You are all so wonderful. Gail Goldsmith

Choir announcement: Warm greetings to you! You're still invited to join the choir). In May, we will rehearse on Thursday, May 18, as we prepare to sing, "For All Good Things," by J. Paul Williams, Joseph M. Martin, and Vicki Tucker Courtney. That anthem will be sung on May 21 as a musical send-off for Pastor Paul as he begins his sabbatical. After that, we will be on summer break until Thursday, September 7. We hope to see you become part of the fun. Lastly, I will be providing music at the upcoming Synod Assembly. If you will be there representing Bethlehem, stop by and say hello! Peace be with you - Tony Bero.

The Sunday Adult Education will have its last class on May 21st and the Sunday School will have its last class on May 28th. They will resume in the Fall.

We are Ready for Sabbatical!!!! Beginning the week of May 22nd the Sabbatical begins. Plans are in place for Pastor Paul to engage in activities that renew the spirit and refresh the soul! Guest pastors will lead worship. We will have activities that will bring us closer as a church family. Sign up in the narthex.

The first activity for Shepherding a Sabbatical begins with the Send Off Sabbatical Luncheon for Pastor Paul. We hope that you will be able to attend this time of fellowship that will be held on: **Sunday, May 21, 2023 immediately after service**

- Please bring your favorite side dish
- Brats and hot dogs grilled by the Men's Group
- "Sunday Sundaes" served for dessert by Y2A
- Coffee & lemonade will be provided

It would be greatly appreciated if we could have more volunteers to assist The Sabbatical Team with this festivity. Please contact Gail Goldsmith.
Blessings and Thank you, The Sabbatical Team

SUMMER SABBATICAL ACTIVITIES: Please take a moment to review the activity sheets on the table in the Gathering Space and SIGN-UP!! Two activities (beginners' Pickleball and Cookie decorating) request you to write in your availability so we can schedule the activity for when the most people can participate. Please remember to complete that portion of the activity also.

Seeking three or four people that would like to play friendly – beginner – Mah Jongg weekly over the summer. Day and time to be determined. If you are interested, please call Barb Graf 946-5120