

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026 – 10am
Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Prelude Music
I Am Redeemed

BLC Choir

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Now the Feast and Celebration

WOV 789

Now the feast and celebration, all creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!

Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and united us to be one great people of God.

Now the feast and celebration, all creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!

(continued on next page)

Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever.

Now the feast and celebration, all creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!

For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God; to make all things new.

Now the feast and celebration, all creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!

Greeting

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!**

Kyrie

p. 203



5203

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: **Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

55 Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

15 My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

WOV 671

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord; alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the king of creation.

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord; alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: 1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” 8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Better is One Day

Redman

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord almighty. For my soul longs and even faints for You.
How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord almighty. For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence. I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

(continued on next day)

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere, than thousands elsewhere.

One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty, to find You in the place Your glory dwells.
One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty, to find You in the place Your glory dwells.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere, than thousands elsewhere.

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God. Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen. Come once again to me. I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You, to You.

Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere, than thousands elsewhere.

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 Church / Sign of the Peace

Offering

Offering Song: *There is a Redeemer* *Bell Ensemble*

Offertory: *Come to the Table* *ELW 481*

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Words of Institution / 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.

Communion (*Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available*)

Communion Songs:

I Am the Bread of Life
I Received the Living God

ELW 485
ELW 477

Final Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

I Danced in the Morning

Gather 297

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance then wherever you may be: I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they wouldn't dance, and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on.

Dance then wherever you may be: I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And left me there on a cross to die.

Dance then wherever you may be: I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance and I still go on.

Dance then wherever you may be: I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

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They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Dance then wherever you may be: I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem May 3, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5/3—Christine Hubert
5/4—Sherryl Hellenga

5/4—Lauren Glenn
5/6—Cathy Lautner

5/9—Joanne Badger
5/10—Kate Holtfreter

Worship Servants for May 3

Presiding & Presiding—Pr. Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Barbara Wright

Lector—Scott Sorenson

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons; Phil & Denise Bossardet, Pr. Paul

Bell Ensemble: Brad Schuler on guitar, Laura Hahn, Kate Holtfreter, Crystel Fernholz, Sheila Mosley, Lindsay Susalski, Scott Sorenson and directed by Cindy Monroe.

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings.*

Hospitality—Dan & Laura Hahn

A/V—Jim Monroe / Paul Ton

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor: Jana & Tom Rockne

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Bonnie Gamble / Jane Passmore

Join us next Sunday for our monthly Traditional service at 10:00am

Mac 'n Cheese Cook-Off: Raise Funds for Youth! Join us after today's service in the Fellowship Hall for a mac 'n cheese cook-off, all to raise funds for our youth program! Get your tasting spoon ready - we'll need people to vote for their favorites so we can crown our winners!

Grief Group will meet tomorrow. May 4th, from 3:30-4:30 in the gathering space.

Creation Care Team update: our next Creation Care core team meeting will be **Monday, May 4th at 6pm** in the Youth Room. Subcommittee members may be meeting before as needed. Contact Paul Wiemerslage, Tina Dohm or Pastor Paul for any updates.

XYZ (EXtra Years of Zest) will next meet on Friday, May 8th. Please note that this is the last meeting before we break for the summer! XYZ is predominantly geared toward seniors but is open to adults of any age - the conversation and presentations would be enjoyable for all! In May, after our potluck lunch at noon, we will be enjoying a performance of live music by Hammer'd. Hammer'd is a local folk band that plays a wide range of Celtic, ethnic, and folk music. Their members play a number of vintage instruments including flute, concertina, hammered dulcimer, bowed psaltery, marimbula, and bodhran (Irish drum).

New Life Together: We are looking for some folks to be at the volunteer table to welcome visitors to our church-just to say hello and we are glad that are here. Please see Peggy Burns 231-392-6933.

Going to the Theatre: One of BLC's own Kathi Ivany-Mort and her husband Jef will be performing in a reader's theatre **COSMO ST. CHARLES IS DEAD AND SOMEONE IN THIS ROOM KILLED HIM** May 8-May10. Tickets cost \$10.00. Cindy Monroe has a block of tickets for Sat May 9 at 2:00. Contact her if you want one of those tickets, or contact the Old Town Playhouse if you want a ticket for a different day.

NOISY OFFERING continues this week. We thank you for your generous giving of \$454.92. We are well on our goal of \$500! We will be collecting through May 10. This year the Synod has chosen to donate the money collected toward Lutheran World Response-Ukraine and Samaritas- New Americans. The money will be taken to Synod Assembly on May 15-16. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns, Jim Monroe or Cindy Monroe, BLC voting delegates.

Verse O.N.T.A.P.: Do you like the Beatles, Pat Benatar, Bob Marley, Elvis (and other artists from the last few decades)? Turns out that scripture has some things to say about love, relationship, and some connections to these rockers' lyrics! Check out Verse O.N.T.A.P. on **Sunday, May 17th 5:30pm-7:00pm** at The Workshop 221 Garland St.

Where 2 or more are gathered in my name. (Matt 18:20) In our world today there are a lot of things that we need prayer for. Every 4th Tues. starting at 11:00, we will be offering a time and place in church to pray. Please join us. The next date is May 26th. If any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913 or cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com

BOOK CLUB: We will meet at the home of Betsy Morley on Wed May 27 at 5:30 to discuss *HORSE* by Geraldine Brooks. If not already on the email list please contact Betsy at betsymorley@charter.net to find out what to bring for the meal.

New Adventure sponsored by Membership Committee: The membership committee tries to make certain that there is contact with as many members as possible. What about when some of those members live in the U.P.? Those who are interested can go on an adventure! Mark and Kathy McPherson live in Cedarville and now have retirement jobs as local tour guides for some Great Lakes ships. They have graciously offered any BLC members a free tour of Sault Ste Marie. Yes, it will be a long day, but except for the drivers you can sleep in the car! The tour will be Sat May 30 leaving the BLC parking lot at 7:00 am, with pit stops both going and returning and eating a meal in the Soo. Contact Cindy or Jim Monroe or sign up in the gathering space.

NEW MEMBERS: Three new members will be accepted on May 31: Kathy Blume (sponsored by Barbara Oster) and Marilyn and Mark Farnwall (sponsored by Laura and Dan Hahn). If you are interested in membership, please contact the office or membership co-chairs Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or John Halstead at marilynjohnhc@hotmail.com

Let's Celebrate! Bethlehem paid off the mortgage to the church in November, so let's celebrate. Our Congregational meeting will be on June 14th, so after the meeting we will have a party and burn the old mortgage (copy).

The Wednesday Zoom Book/Bible Study meets at 1:30pm with a study of the Book of Ecclesiastes. See Pr. Paul or Barbara if you have any questions.

Thank you Sustaining Endowment Committee: Thanks to funds approved by this committee we are starting a gradual changeover of our round tables in the fellowship hall. You may have noticed that many of our current tables have chips on the side edges which can scrape you or snag your clothing. Also, those tables are very HEAVY!! We will have 10 new tables before the end of April and a dolly which can move 8 tables at a time and which has a softer bottom on which the tables can rest. If you know anyone who wants a 6 ft folding diameter table, please check with the property team about availability and appropriate donation. (A nice tablecloth will cover the worn spots.)

Spotlight on Zeke: So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

Wed 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27 – The Pub TC, Traverse City 7:00pm;
Fri 5/22 & Sat 5/23 –Grand Traverse Resort, Acme 7:00pm;
Mon 5/25—Memorial Day French Valley Vineyard, Cedar 7:00pm

Today's Prayer Recipients: Please send any changes or additions by email to admin@bethlehemtc.org

Harper Wiemerslage,	Sherry,	Chris,	Cheryl
Jerry Hill,	Bob,	Cheryl,	Pat,
John Block,	John Stretlien,	Julie Barrett,	Jan Schmidt,
Roy DuMond,	Judy Fenton,	Patti,	Pat Burton,
Mary Woodring,	Cindy Hitesman,	Sharon,	Gretchen
Norm Fred,	Richard Fernholz,	Kyle,	Shelley Miller
Lynn,	Julie Lapeer,	Christine,	Pr. Zack Nelson
Steve,	Lee,	Janet,	

The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is on the calendar.

Sunday, May 3

9:00am—First Communion (Library)
 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
 9:15am—Sunday School
 10:00am—Worship Service (S)
 11:15am—Mac'n Cheese Cook-Off (FH)

Monday, May 4

2:30pm—Choir (S)
 3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)
 3:30pm—Grief Group (GS)
 6:00pm—Creation Care Meeting (YR)

Tuesday, May 5

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am— Property Work Group
 9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
 10:45am—Staff Meeting (CR)

Wednesday, May 6

11:30am—Music Rehearsal
 1:30pm—Zoom Book & Bible Study (Zoom & YR)

Thursday, May 7

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Friday, May 8

12:00pm—XYZ (FH)
 6:00pm—LifeRing Recovery Group (Library)

Saturday, May 9

9:30am—Youth Discipleship Retreat (YR)
 7:00pm—Contra Dance – Bayside Travellers (FH)

Sunday, May 10

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

9:00am—First Communion (Library)
 9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
 9:15am—Sunday School
 10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

