

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 5, 2024

**Bethany Lutheran Church Welcome Visitors.**

Please sign our visitor book. There activity bags available for small children, located by the entrance of sanctuary.



## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## GATHERING SONG Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710

## 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.**

## KYRIE

*The Kyrie (pronounced KEER-ee-ay) is a prayer for God's mercy to fill the church and the world while acknowledging that mercy comes from the Triune God alone. **The congregation sings the refrain, the song leader (cantor) sings the verses.***

### Refrain:

*Refrain*

Ky-ri - e      e - lei - son,      on our world and on      our way.

Ky-ri - e      e - lei - son,      ev-'ry day.

V1) For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (*Refrain*)

V2) That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (*Refrain*)

V3) For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;  
for life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (*Refrain*)

V4) For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;  
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (*Refrain*)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

A reading from Acts.

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: I John 5:1-6

A reading from I John.

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord. **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.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give

you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY **Blest Be the Tie That Binds**



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.  
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1774–1836, adapt.

## 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

Each prayer petition ends: *God of grace, hear our prayer.*

## PEACE

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

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERING



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 the 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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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### OFFERING PRAYER

#### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

#### PREFACE

#### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places,  
 with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars,  
 we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **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.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

### **SENDING OF COMMUNION**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*





1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

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Worship on Sunday morning is recorded on Facebook from the 9AM service.

- May 5<sup>th</sup> – Thank you to youth for leading our worship today.
- Thank you to W-ELCA for the new coffee carafes!!!
- May 5<sup>th</sup> – Noon Bethany Council Meeting
- May 5<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm Paint Party @ Bethany. Proceeds will go to fund the Youth Trip.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Betty will be on Vacation.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> – W-ELCA Rachel Circle @ 4 pm for bible study and fellowship.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Sunday with Pastor Lucy and Family following Worship.
- May 19<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation & Receiving New Members (B.I.N.G.O fellowship too)
- May 26<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day Weekend)– Bethany and East Lemonweir Combined Worship, 10:30 am @ East Lemonweir.
- June 7 – Bethany Salad Luncheon and Silent Purse Auction. Do you have a favorite salad or dessert? We would appreciate if you could create for our luncheon.

- The La Crosse Area Synod Hunger Team invites all congregations to support the 2023-2024 "Water is Life" project by bringing stories, pictures and decorated 2-gal buckets to Synod Assembly to bring awareness of the importance of water on the world's food supply & global efforts to end hunger and raise money to support ELCA's water projects. Please consider donating as we have a matching fund donor. **WE CAN DO IT.**
  - Quilting – 9 am Wednesday @ Bethany. Please join us for fun, friend making and fellowship. No experience is required
  - Bible Study, 9 am @ Bethany, on Thursday
  - **Stop in the church office for a Confirmation or Graduation Gift...we have scrip cards available!**
  - AA meets at 6:30 PM – Tuesday @ East Lemonweir and Thursday @ Bethany.
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Prayers for those who have lost family and friends.

Prayers for those who cannot attend worship with us today,  
Prayers for Wyatt, Collette Schultz, Garry Olson, Elwood Syverson, Dennis Stark,  
Mickie(Ron/Patty Thompson), Fran Benson, Shona (Betty Krotzman), Landon  
LaBerge, John Gromola (Darrell Johnson), Mary Lee, Steven Stapleton, Marilyn  
Wetley, and others we silently name.

Prayers for those who serve our world, country and communities.

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**Bethany/East Lemonweir Parish – [www.bethanyeast.com](http://www.bethanyeast.com)**

**[bethanyeast@mwt.net](mailto:bethanyeast@mwt.net)**

Pastor, Rev. Lucy Hardie

Parish Secretary, Betty Krotzman

Organist, Michaela Pedersen for Bethany

Organist, Marlene Pelton for East Lemonweir

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