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**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Fourth Sunday of Easter | Sunday, May 11, 2025

ELW Holy Communion Setting 3

**SPIRIT ART**

**A meditative study of scripture through art.**

**John 10:22-30**

**WELCOME, WE’RE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!**

***If you are new to Bethel, here is some helpful worship information****: We use the ELW (red hymnal) and the supplement ACS (purple hymnal), which contain liturgy and hymns. Liturgy pages are at the front of each hymnal, with the page numbers at the bottom and in the bulletin as (red ELW p.) or (purple ACS p.) Hymn pages are in the back two-thirds of the hymnals, with the page numbers at the top and in the bulletin as (red hymnal #) or (purple hymnal #). The songs from the Green Book are in the bulletin as (green binder #).* ***Hearing assistive devices are available;*** *speak to an usher for assistance.*

**GATHERING**

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

Meditation time The Potter's Hand arr. by Todd Beaney

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me arr. by Anna Laura Page

 The Lord's My Shepherd arr. by Duane Funderburk

Welcome & Announcements

welcome to worship song God Welcomes All (purple hymnal #978, sing 2X)

thanksgiving for baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit’s power.

Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG***Shepherd Us* (based on Psalm 23) (insert)

Greeting (red ELW p. 138)

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 (red ELW p. 138) In peace, let us pray to the Lord…**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (red ELW p. 139) This is the feast of victory…**

Prayer of the Day

**O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that si well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**GRADUATE BLESSING**

**CHOIR *The Potter’s Hand* choral setting by Lloyd Larson**

**WORD**

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

FIRST Reading: Acts 9:36-43

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. 37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” 39 So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. 42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

Psalm: Psalm 23 (read responsively)

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
2 **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures** **and leads me beside still waters.**
3 You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.
4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;** **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,** **and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!” 11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

Gospel Acclamation (red ELW p. 142) **Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?…**

Gospel: John 10:22-30 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

22 At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me, 26 but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given me all, is greater, and no one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand. 30 The Father and I are one.”

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

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

Hymn of the Day *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*(red hymnal # 611) apostles’ Creed (red ELW p. 105) Prayers of intercession Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**MEAL**

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

offering song Jesus, Name Above All Names (Bethel Brass)

OfferING Prayer

**Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING (red ELW p. 144)**

**PREFACE**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (**red ELW **p. 144)**

Thanksgiving at the Table (red ELW p. 145)

lord’s prayer (red ELW p. 145)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (red ELW p. 146) **Lamb of God…**

SONG during communion *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*(red hymnal #843)

Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

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

Blessing

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 SONG *Lead Me, Guide Me*(red hymnal #768)

Dismissal Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

God in peace. In Christ, you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude Love Divine All Loves Excelling with Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee arr. by Melody Bober

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NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 148; Rev 21:1-6; Jn 13:31-35

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God

 and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHEL**

**Today** (Happy Mother’s Day!)

* Congratulations, 2025 HS Graduates Logan M. and Oliver A.!
* Sunday school and last day of Confirmation class: following worship

**Monday, May 12- Thursday, May 15**

* Pastor Molly at Festival of Homiletics, Atlanta, GA

**Tuesday, May 13**

* WELCA business meeting: 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 14**

* Bible study: 11:30 a.m.
* Quilting: 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
* Choir practice: 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 15**

* MEFS Mobile Outreach: 2:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m., the bus will be in Bethel’s parking lot

**Sunday, May 18**

* Praise Worship: 9:00 a.m.
* Last day of Sunday school; BLTs; New Member class: following worship

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. If you need emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email her at pastor@lpbethel.org.

**ADDRESS:** 77 Lincoln AVE N, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, (Mailing USPS: PO Box 207)

**WEBSITE**: [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

**FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/lpbethel

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Wednesdays at noon

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** 25th of the month

**ONLINE GIVING:** Scan the QR code

**TEXT GIVING:** To give, text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**

**SIMPLY GIVING** offers convenience for you and much-needed consistency for Bethel! For more information, contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at finsec@lpbethel.org.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE-MONTH END APRIL 2025**

$ Contributions: 6,787.40

$ To Meet Budget: 10,262.01

$ Difference: -3,474.61

Weekly Average Attendance: 74

**FINANCIAL UPDATE-FOR THE YEAR 2025**

YTD $ Contributions: 32,033.19

YTD $ To Meet Budget: 41,048.04

YTD $ Difference: -9,014.85

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

* **COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE!** Are you looking to grow your own vegetables or flowers this season? Bethel’s Community Garden has plots available for rent! Whether you’re an experienced gardener or just getting started, this is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, connect with others, and nurture God’s creation. For more information or to reserve a plot, please contact Emily Koehler or the church office.
* **WELCA EASTER PROJECT:** During the Easter season, WELCA will facilitate a collection of specific food items to donate to the McLeod County Common Cup Ministry. We encourage you to bring **applesauce** (cups or pouches), **instant breakfast bottles, juice boxes**, and **fruit cups** and place them in the collection containers in the narthex. These items will support the Weekend Food Program, which assists McLeod County families in need. Children who qualify for the program receive a bag of food at the end of each week to take home, helping to supplement their meals over the weekend when they are not in school and unable to benefit from school lunches and breakfasts. Since November, several Bethel members have been packing and delivering these food bags to the Lester Prairie school for local students. Check out the display in the narthex to learn more about this program.
* **QUILTING GROUP** meets weekly on Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m. All are welcome! There are several tasks for all levels of expertise.
* **BETHEL CHURCH PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER**: We are raising funds to rebuild the parking lot. Our goal is to raise $30,000, in addition to the $30,000 already allocated from church funds. We aim to complete this project in September. Please consider donating to this much-needed project. You can scan the QR code on the opposite page to access the online Parking Lot Fund, or you may place your donation in the offering plate. If you choose to donate by check or cash, please indicate on the envelope or check that your contribution is for the parking lot. A mock-up of the parking lot is displayed in the narthex to help track our progress. Thank you for your support!
* **WHAT IS ORDINARY TIME?** Ordinary Time is a restful, reflective, and beautiful experience taking place this summer at Camp House. It provides an opportunity to step away from the noise and embrace the quiet. This program is designed for individuals, couples, families, and groups, including youth, men, women, and shared interest clubs-anyone seeking a slower pace and deeper connection with God, nature, and one another. For more information, visit GLLM.org/Ordinary-Time.

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