

## WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Trinity | Sunday, May 31, 2026

Rev. LaDonna Ekern, Supply Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

ELW Holy Communion Setting 8

If you are new to Bethel, here is some helpful information about worship services. We use the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal and the supplement hymnal *All Creation Sings*, 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 (ELW p.#) or (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 (ELW #) or (ACS #). The songs from the **Green Binder** are in the bulletin as (GB #). 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**     *Holy, Holy, Holy* arr. by Melody Bober

*Lord, You Give the Great Commission* arr. by Michael Larkin

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP SONG**     *We Are Gathered Here*

### WE ARE GATHERED HERE

Larry Olson  
Karol Baer  
David Lee Brown

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It features a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 100. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "We are gathered here in the name (of the Maker). We are gathered here to sing God's praise. (of the Savior) (of the Spirit). We are gathered here in the name (of the Maker). Cho-sen by God's grace. (of the Savior) (of the Spirit)." The chords are: E, F#m7, G#m7, A, E, F#m7, G#m7, A, E, F#m7, G#m7, A, C#m, B, E.

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## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy, and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**     *Rise, Shine, You People!* (ELW 665)

## GREETING

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

**KYRIE** (ELW p.184)

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (ELW p. 185)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

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

## FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

<sup>1</sup> When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. <sup>6</sup> And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. <sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. <sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. <sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that

it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. <sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. <sup>2:1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. <sup>4a</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 8** (responsive reading)

<sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup> **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

<sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup> **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor, or you crown them.

<sup>6</sup> **You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

<sup>7</sup> all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup> **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

<sup>9</sup> O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

[Paul writes:] <sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. <sup>13</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (ELW p. 188) **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?...**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20** The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Come, Join the Dance of Trinity* (ELW 412)

**APOSTLES' CREED** (ELW p.105)

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

**OFFERING SONG** *Now the Feast of Celebration* (ELW 167)

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts you first gave to us. Loosen the bonds these material things have wrapped around us. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your gifts and love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** (ELW p. 190)

**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** (ELW p. 190)

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (ELW p. 191)

## **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG** (ELW p. 191) **Lamb of God...**

**SONG DURING COMMUNION** *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* (ELW 735)

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## SENDING

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

### **BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**      *Go to the World (ACS 991)*

**DISMISSAL**      Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**      *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* arr. by Michael Larkin

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**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:** Hos 5:15—6:6; Ps 50:7-15; Rom 4:13-25; Matt 9:9-13, 18-26

**THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!** Check out the opportunities to sign up for upcoming Sundays!

### **This week at Bethel**

#### **Sunday, May 31 (Holy Trinity)**

*Thank you, Pastor LaDonna, for leading us in worship!*

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.

#### **Wednesday, June 3** (office hours) *No Bible study*

- MEFS bus: 2:30 p.m, Bethel parking lot
- WELCA meeting: 6:30 p.m.

#### **Sunday, June 7**

- Worship: 9:00 a.m.

#### **Pastoral Care Coverage May 31-June 4:**

Rev. Erik Karlson, 507-766-5870, Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Glencoe.

### **Bethel's 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.



### **Questions or Requests?**

**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

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

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Wednesday at noon**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month**

### **TEXT GIVING**

To give, text the dollar amount to

**866-298-7547** *or*

**VANCO GIVING**

**Scan the QR code**

*or* visit www.lpbethel.org

Click under the "Give" section, *or* complete an application form [from the narthex] and submit it to the church office.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

**The Bethel Lutheran Community Garden needs YOU!** We are looking for volunteers to help us tend this season's garden—whether you have a green thumb or just a willing spirit, there's a place for you here. We need help with planting, weeding, harvesting, and general maintenance. Every hour of help makes a difference in what we can grow and share with others.

**Altar Flowers and Communion Set up:** Do you have flowers in your garden? If you would like to share an altar bouquet, please let Judy know what week you'd like to bring it. Also, for those of you who have signed up for communion set up in the past, please check your schedules to see if there is room to sign up for a Sunday or two or three over the summer! If anyone else is interested in learning the process, please talk to Judy! All are welcome to get involved! Thanks!

**Common Cup Food Donations:** We are collecting applesauce cups and fruit cups for the food program at Common Cup Ministries. Your donations may be left in the basket in the "Common Cup Corner" in the narthex.

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Wednesday, June 10, July 15, & August 19, serving noon-1:00 p.m.** (or until the food is gone)

**Poolside Plates**—Free meals for any Lester Prairie kids under age 16 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Park Picnic Shelter. If you have questions, contact Terri Helland, [terrihelland@gmail.com](mailto:terrihelland@gmail.com)

Sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment grant, Lester Prairie Youth Task Force, Lester Prairie Lions Club, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and St. Paul's Sandwich Ministry, Lester Prairie.

**Sunday, June 28, 9:00 a.m.**

**Annual worship & potluck picnic at the Bergen Church site!** Check the bulletin board for directions. Remember to bring a blanket or lawn chairs and a dish to share. Hope to see you!

**Sunday, July 19 & Sunday, August 16, 9:00 a.m.**

**Join us for outdoor worship!** Remember to bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Worship will be held indoors if the weather is bad. *(Stay for VBS on the 16<sup>th</sup>; all are welcome to join in the fun!)*

**Monday, July 27, 6:00 p.m.**

**A Glass Mosaic event** is planned for Bethel women and girls ages 15 and up. We will start with a meal followed by the mosaic project, instructed by Linda Reinert of Mosaics at the Farm. More details are coming soon!

**August 2, 9, & 16, beginning at about 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Vacation Bible School** for all ages following Sunday worship!



2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."