

**Sunday, May 9, 2021  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

**RINGING OF BELL  
PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES  
WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed.**

Sin and death have no power over us.

**Alleluia!**

Let us come and worship Him.

**Let us worship Him in spirit and in truth.**

Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**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.**

**HYMN *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.

## WORD

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

### PSALM 98

*Psalm 98 is a hymn of praise.*

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

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

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus, the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> John.

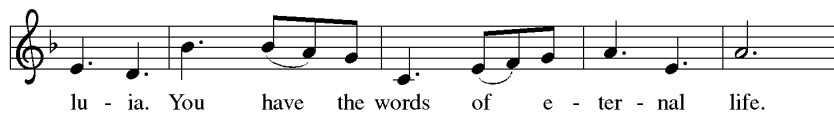
<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. 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



## GOSPEL READING: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

The holy gospel according to John.

**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.”

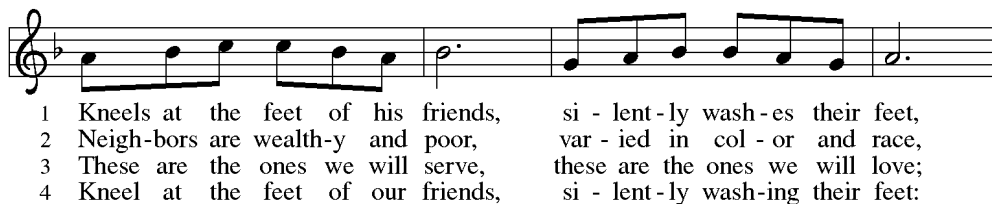
The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

### HYMN *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

*Refrain*



*Refrain*



Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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## BLESSING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth.

We give thanks to you for all the women of faith who have done your will throughout the ages.

**We thank you for Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel,  
for Deborah and Esther, for Anna and Elizabeth,**

for Joanna and Susanna, for Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe,

**For Mary Magdalene, the first witness of the resurrection,  
and for Mary, the mother of our Lord.**

God of our ancestors, we ask your blessing upon the faithful women and girls of Bethany, our sisters and friends, our spouses and daughters, our grandmothers, and mothers.

*Men and Boys Only:* **Keep them steadfast in your Word. Look with favor upon their lives in Christ.**

May they wait upon the Lord and renew their strength, soaring up with wings like eagles, running and not growing weary, walking, and not becoming faint, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with, "Hear our prayer."*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

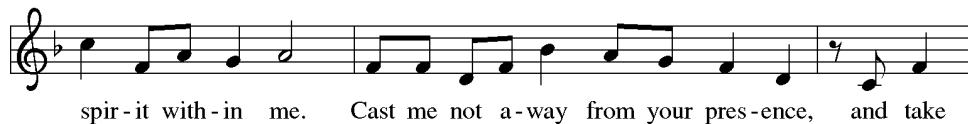
The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*We are grateful for your gifts and they are needed to continue the work of the church. Options on ways to give are found on our website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)). Thank you!*

*Offerings received throughout the week and from those in attendance are brought forward and placed on the altar railing as "Create in Me a Clean Heart" is played.*



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

## HYMN *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all  
creatures here below; praise him above, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

## SENDING

Sent with the peace of Christ, give witness to the good news of Easter!

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	May 16
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Mike Fryauf	Lisa Zimmerman
Christ's Light (Acolytes)	Aizlyn M. & Arik M.	Tate F. & Cole C.
Minister of Technology	Olivia P.	Hannah S.
Worship (Altar Care)	Jill Taylor	Jill Taylor



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning! We invite you to join us again next Sunday at 9:30 AM on Facebook or outdoors (weather dependent). Blessings to you as you shine forth the light of Christ in the world this week! Thanks, and praise to God for everything you do in the name of Jesus Christ!

If you are interested in learning more about Bethany Lutheran or interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Chad Whaley at 319-643-5998 or email ([pastor@wbbethany.org](mailto:pastor@wbbethany.org)).

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter and email updates, please send your email address to our Administrative Assistant Paula Casper ([blcsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blcsecretary@lcom.net)).



Join us every Monday at noon for a 30-minute discussion about the upcoming Sunday gospel reading. We gather via Zoom Meeting so join at home or work while on your lunch break. If interested, contact Pastor Chad at [pastor@wbbethany.org](mailto:pastor@wbbethany.org) and the Zoom invitation will be forwarded to you. The gospel for Sunday, May 16 John 17:6-19.



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**You are loved!**