



**May 19, 2024**

Day of Pentecost

Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

**Introduction to the day**

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

This worship is being streamed live via Facebook and will be posted to our Website and X (formerly Twitter). The camera captures anyone in the first few pews of our worship space and beyond extending to the altar.

**PREDLUDE**

**RINGING OF BELL**

**LIGHTING OF CANDLES** (*Bethany Choir sings "Great Are You, Lord"*)

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

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

The assembly stands.

Please respond with the words printed in bold.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind (ELW 400)* See next page.



1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -  
 2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your  
 3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from  
 4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;  
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,  
 leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,  
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,  
 let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,  
 for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;  
 may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!  
 kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!  
 make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!  
 claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007  
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932  
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**GREETING (ELW p. 184)**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 188)**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit,  
 transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM “Guide My Wayfaring Feet”**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21**

*Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God’s activity in multiple languages.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>“In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ ”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 104:24-34, 35b**

<sup>24</sup>How manifold are your works, O LORD!  
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup>**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,  
living things both small and great.**

<sup>26</sup>There go the ships to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

<sup>27</sup>**All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.**

<sup>28</sup>You give it to them; they gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup>**When you hide your face, they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup>You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;  
and so you renew the face of the earth.

<sup>31</sup>**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

<sup>32</sup>You look at the earth and it trembles;  
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup>**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

<sup>34</sup>May these words of mine please God.  
I will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35b</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul.  
Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 8:22-27**

*By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* (ELW 172)**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

## **GOSPEL: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

*While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>26</sup>“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup>You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>16:4b</sup>“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup>But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ <sup>6</sup>But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>about sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

<sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

**SERMON (ELW p. 189)**

The assembly stands.

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Breathe on Me, Breath of God***

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new.  
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire;  
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

1

That I may love all that you love and do what you would do.  
Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.  
That ev - 'ry earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.  
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

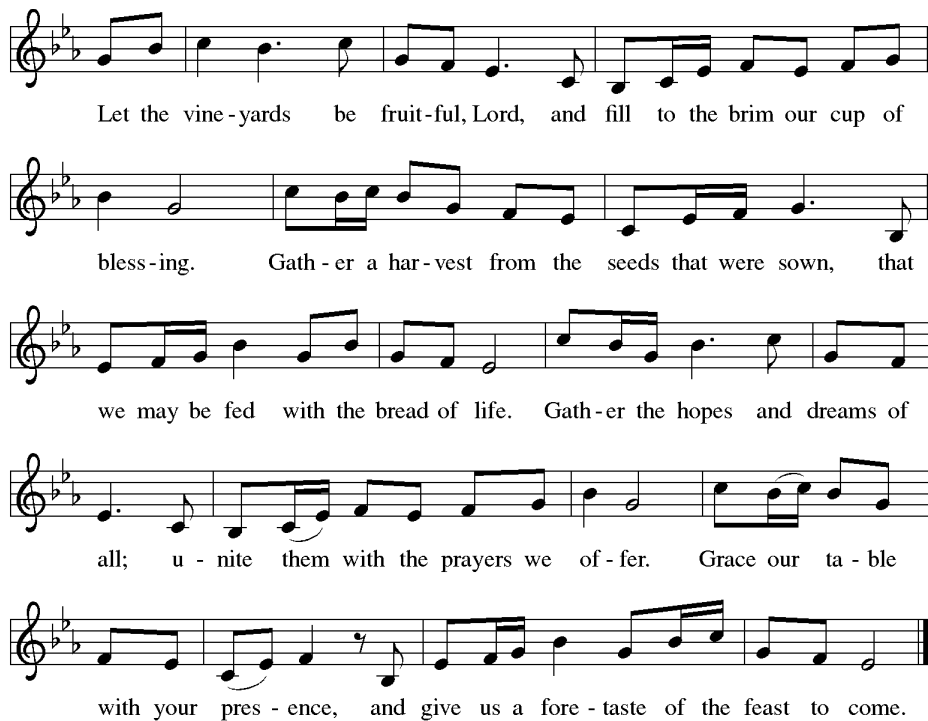
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**APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 189)**

**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;**





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 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.

**OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 190)**

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, 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.**

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

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 (ELW p. 190)**

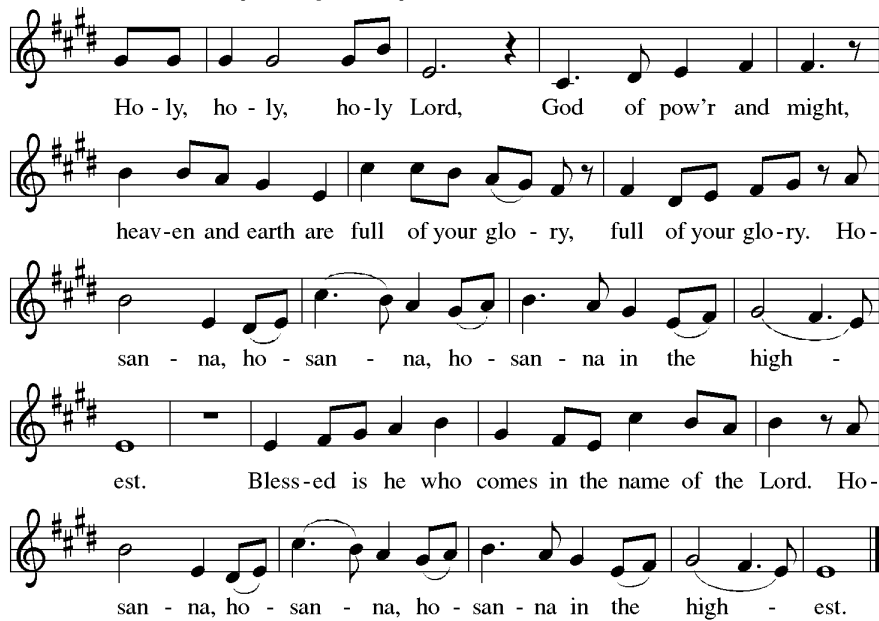
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
 that we should at all times and in all places  
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
 through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,  
 you pour out the fire of your Spirit,  
 uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
 with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
 and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)



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 (ELW p. 190)

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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.

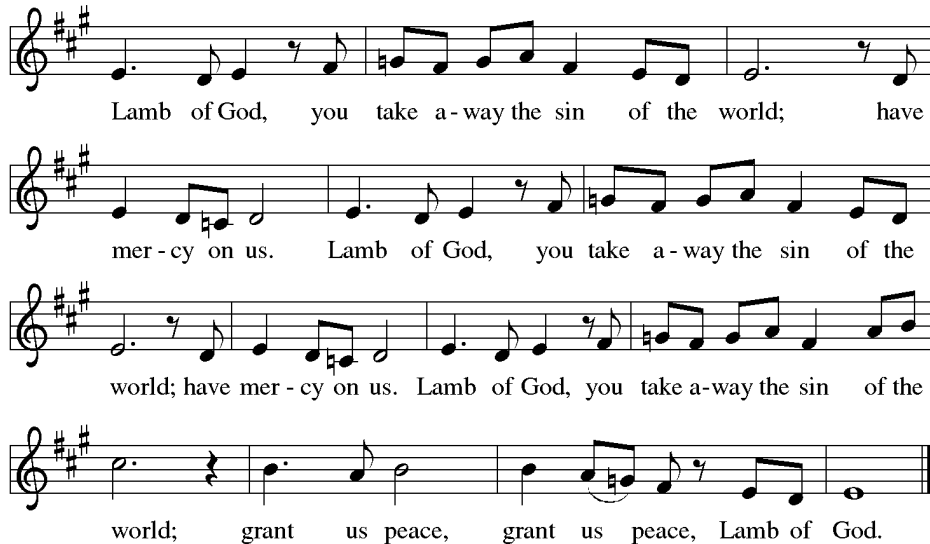
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## COMMUNION

Communion today will be distributed in a continuous line. The cups in the center of the tray contain white grape juice. All other cups are wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. All gathered who believe Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior are invited to come to Holy Communion with repentant hearts believing that Christ forgives our sins and guides our lives. Strengthened, forgiven, and nourished through this meal the Spirit sends us forth in service and to proclaim the good news of Christ's love. Children and adults who do not take communion may come forward for a blessing.

### COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

### Here Is Bread (ELW 483)



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.

Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.  
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.  
We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

*Refrain*  
In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.  
In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

## Spirit of Gentleness (ELW 396)

*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



*Refrain*

"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## RECOGNITION AND PRAYER FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**

Let your light scatter the darkness  
**and illumine your church.**

Fill us with your light,  
**so that we may let it shine before others.**

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

Let us pray.

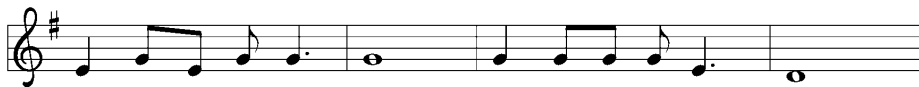
Almighty God, we rejoice with all graduates and pray for them in their future endeavors. Especially, we give thanks for our high school seniors: Chloe Klabo and Auron Marsh. We rejoice for the gift each graduate is to their family, friends, and community. Look with favor upon them, protect them, and grant them courage, patience, and vision as they embark on a new stage in their life. Let your Spirit instill within them the faith to believe in the promise you are with them always. Bless them in all they do, wherever they go, and let the light of Christ shine brightly through each of them to all they encounter. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our hope and light.

**Amen.**

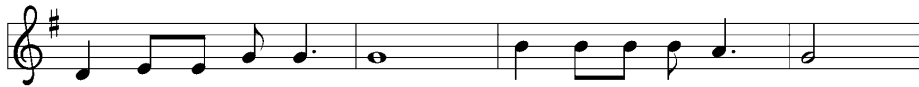
**SENDING SONG *This Little Light of Mine* (ELW 677)**



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

**BLESSING (ELW p. 192)**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 192)**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Great Hall following worship.*

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	May 26
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Al Beyer	Dave Bahnsen
Minister of Technology	Jill Taylor	Cole Crosthwaite & Tate Frantz
Worship (Altar Care)	John & Linda Black	John & Linda Black



Thank you for worshipping with us today. Just as Jesus welcomed the stranger, we believe all are welcome here. Please join us again next week. For more information about our life together in Christ, visit: [www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)



**START**  
the  
**PARTY**  
VBS *Celebrate the Good News*

**July 15-18**  
**5:30-8:00 PM**  
Dinner served at 5:30 pm  
Incoming Preschool- 6th Grade

REGISTER NOW > [bit.ly/bethanyvbs24](http://bit.ly/bethanyvbs24)

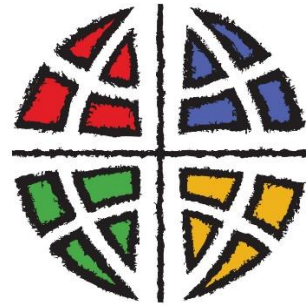
**Volunteers Needed!**  
Sign-up here: [bit.ly/blcvolunteer24](http://bit.ly/blcvolunteer24)

**Land Acknowledgement**

Bethany Lutheran is located in the original and ancestral homelands of the Iowa, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and Oceti Sakowin peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

# SUPPORT THE MANY MINISTRIES

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church in America



## OFFERING PLATE

Money can be placed in offering plate on Sunday morning or mailed to:  
Bethany Lutheran Church Box 236, West Branch, IA 52358.



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Scan QR code with your phone  
or visit our website  
<https://wbbethany.org>. Click  
on the blue "Give Now" button.



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Sign up for the "Simply Giving" program for automatic withdrawals from your account. Contact [blcsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blcsecretary@lcom.net)



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