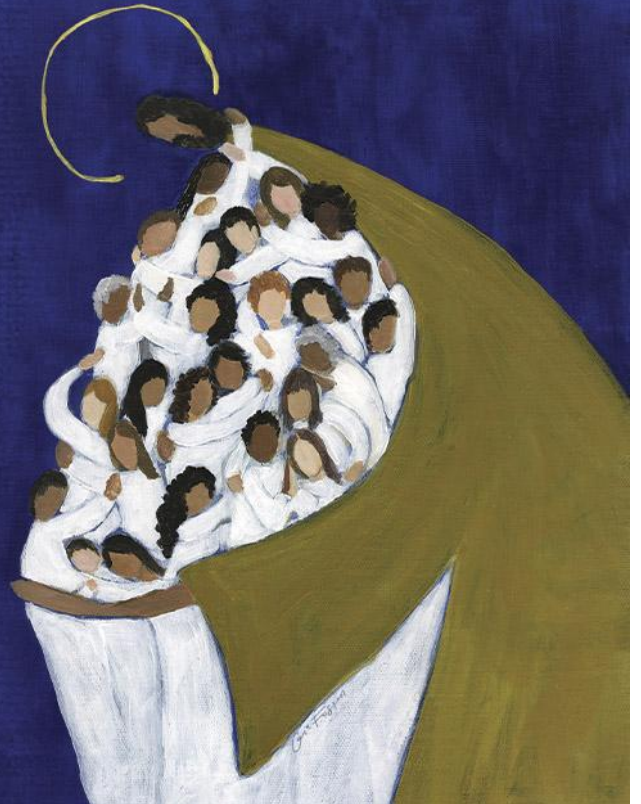


# Because I live, you also will live

JOHN 14:19



May 10, 2026  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

## Introduction to the day

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

This worship is being streamed live via Facebook and will be posted to our website and YouTube page. The camera captures anyone in the first few pews of our worship space and beyond extending to the altar.

**PREDLUDE/LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**RINGING OF BELL**

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

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

The assembly stands and responds with the words printed in bold.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN *We Know That Christ Is Raised* (ELW 449)**



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

## EASTER CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**We gather to celebrate the Easter promise.**

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!**

## 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



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



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



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for  
hun-gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam-i-ly; for  
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus-tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 66:8-20

<sup>8</sup> Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

<sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us among the living  
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

<sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>11</sup> **You brought us into the net;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

<sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

<sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house with burnt offerings  
and will pay you my vows—**

<sup>14</sup> those that I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

<sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats.**

<sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

<sup>17</sup> **I called out to God with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

<sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;

<sup>19</sup> **but in truth God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

A reading from First Peter.

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

## 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 14:15-21

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

**SERMON**

The assembly stands

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Loving Spirit* (ELW 397)**



- 1 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov-ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
- 2 Like a moth-er you en - fold me, hold my life with-in your own,
- 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
- 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close-ness I am known and held and blessed:
- 5 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov-ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.  
feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.  
hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.  
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres-ence I may rest.  
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

**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, “Hear us, O God.” The assembly then sings, “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (ELW 752).*



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

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.

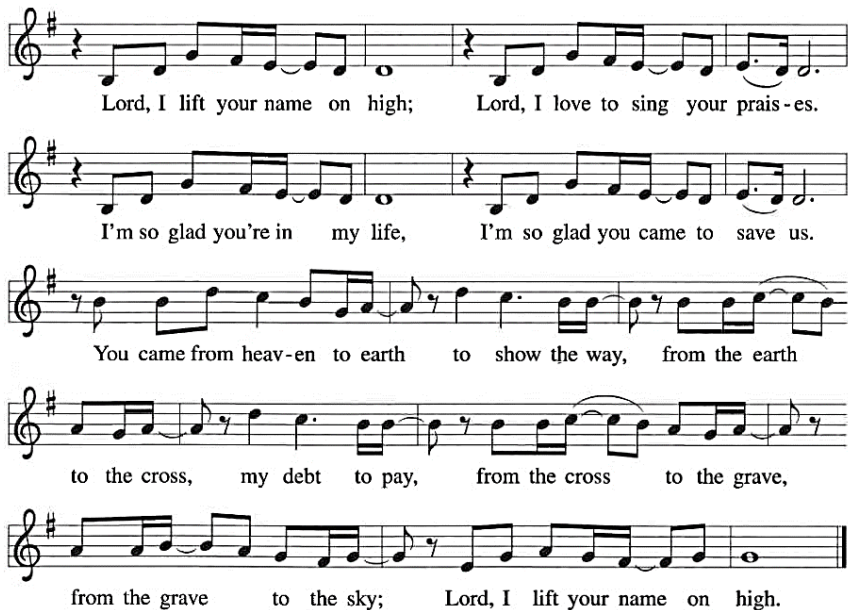
**And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

**OFFERING**

*We are grateful for your gifts, and they are needed to continue the work of the church. For those worshipping online, options on ways to give are found on our website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)). Thank you! After the offering is gathered, the people of God stand and sing the hymn on the next page as the gifts are brought forward.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* (ELW 857)



Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your prais-es.  
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth  
to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,  
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

**SENDING HYMN *Come Share the Spirit* (ACS 1045) See next page.**



1 Come, share the Spir - it, God has called us to ven - tures  
 2 Come, drown your sins be - neath the wa - ters where life flows  
 3 Come, God in - vites us to the ban - quet that ev - 'ry  
 4 Come, let us tell the gos - pel sto - ry, how God has



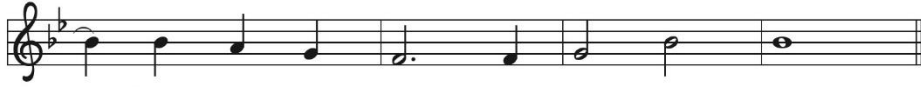
in the life of faith, to bring good tid - ings to the  
 from the gran - ite rock, the stone from which our Lord has  
 peo - ple soon will share, with shouts of joy and loud thanks -  
 giv - en us new birth and rais - es us to live for



need - y, to tell of vic - t'ry o - ver death.  
 ris - en, our cor - ner - stone and build - ing block.  
 giv - ing be - fore God's throne we will ap - pear.  
 oth - ers, to speak good news through - out the earth.



Christ speaks and all of life is new;  
 Christ speaks and rais - es from the dead  
 Christ speaks and bids us sit and dine;  
 Christ speaks and life is come a - gain.



God's word is pure and it is true.  
 all those who hear the liv - ing Word.  
 his bod - y, bread, his blood, the wine.  
 Good news, good news for ev - 'ry - one!

**BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
 Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
 and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
 ✚ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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



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)

**OUR MINISTRY ASSISTANTS**

Ministers of:	Today	May 17th
<b>Music</b>	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
<b>Proclamation (Lector)</b>	Bruce Jeffries	Beth Kaufman
<b>Technology</b>	Dave Poppen	Darla & Kevin Crosthwaite
<b>Hospitality</b>	Howard & Terry Moss	Dave & Kami Poppen
<b>Worship (Altar Care)</b>	Del & Sue Hughes	Del & Sue Hughes
<b>Food &amp; Fellowship</b>	Al & Claudia Beyer	Graduation cake!

OUR

mission

*To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education, and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to others.*

## 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.

Liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB135727.  
*Come Share the Spirit* (ACS 1045); Text © 1987 Augsburg Fortress. Music © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB135727. OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license.  
*We Know That Christ Is Raised* (ELW 449); Text © John B. Geyer.  
*Loving Spirit* (ELW 397); Text © 1987 by The Hymn Society, (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress under license # SB135727. OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license.  
 Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.