

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We gather this day to receive God's gifts and to praise His holy name. If you are visiting us today, we encourage you to fill out a yellow card in the pew rack to inform us of your visit and to introduce yourself to one of the pastors. Please stop by our Welcome Center in the narthex for more information about Bethany, and to receive a gift for you from our church family. Also, be sure to pick up our weekly *News & Notes*, located on the table in the back of the church.

Bethany is a singing parish and we hope that you will join us. A fine voice is not required – just a heart for worship. As you follow the order of service in this bulletin, please note:

- LSB refers to the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*
- Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher.
- Front pew - hymnals are in a rack underneath your seat.
- Regarding communion. Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper where we receive Christ's Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Those communing are giving public witness that they are one in doctrine. In loving obedience to this Scriptural teaching, we therefore invite communicant members of all congregations in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to commune with us.

For your reference, worship participants are indicated as follows in the bulletin:

P: Presiding Minister (pastor's parts)

A: *Assisting Liturgist (pastor, choir or cantor)*

C: Congregation (or all)

AS WE GATHER

There is a lot of love talk in the epistles of the beloved disciple and we get some of it today. But all is not love and kisses. The beloved disciple (John) also warns us against false teachers. The church is full of false teachers according to John. It is good for us to heed John's advice to love each other but more importantly, we need to know where the love comes from in the first place and make sure the Gospel of love is kept pure.

+We Stand in Our Baptismal Grace+

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(LSB #151)

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

GREETING

(Please stand and turn to face the processional cross as it enters the church.)

ENTRANCE HYMN "Alleluia, Jesus Is Risen"

LSB #474 st.1,2,3

KYRIE

LSB #152

CANTICLE "This is the Feast"

LSB #155

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. *(silence is kept)* Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

+We Sit to Meditate On God's Word+

THE FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40 (ESV)

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

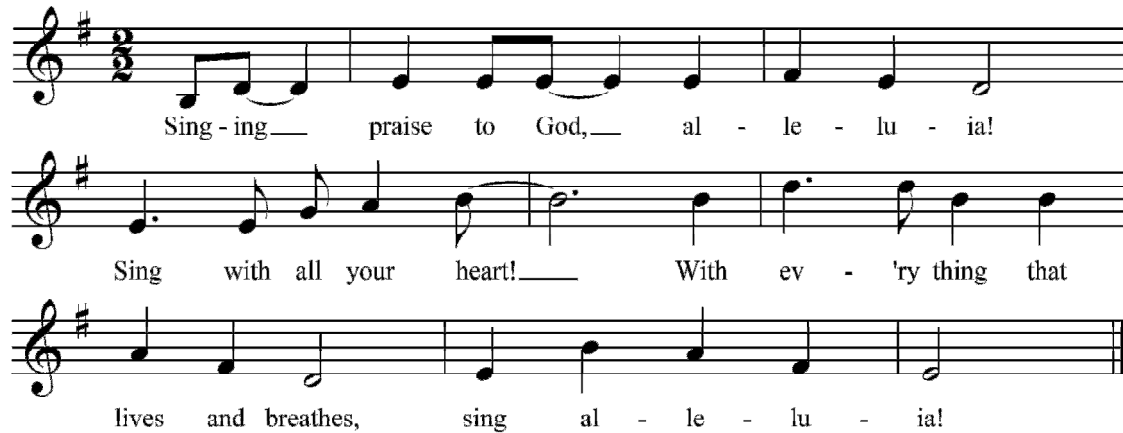
P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM OF THE DAY (5PM, 7:45 & 11:15AM)
“Sing Praise to God”

Psalm 150
trad. British

A: *Praise the Lord in His sanctuary, praise Him in the earth and skies.
Praise to God for His mighty deeds, all the wonders before our eyes!*

C: **(Refrain)**



Sing - ing — praise to God, — al - le - lu - ia!
Sing with all your heart! — With ev - 'ry thing that
lives and breathes, sing al - le - lu - ia!

A: *Praise the Lord with the blast of the trumpet, praise Him with harp and strings.
Praise to God with dance and sound, with everything that sings!*

C: **Refrain**

A: *Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbals, drums beating loud and strong.
All that lives, sing praise to God, our justice and our song!*

C: **Refrain**

A: *Praise to the Source, our God and maker, praise to the Risen One,
Praise to the Breath of life and freedom. Sing alleluia!*

C: **Refrain**

THE PSALM OF THE DAY (9AM) “All the Earth Sing Forth”
Schola Cantorum

Psalm 150
J. S. Bach

*All the earth sing forth, give praise to the Lord forever.
Every voice, sing, rejoice. Sing your praise to the Lord forevermore.*

*Shout your praise to the Lord, lift up your hearts rejoicing.
Shout your praise to the Lord, your joyful songs be voicing.*

*Praise the Lord with dance and song.
Sound the cymbals loud and strong.
Sound the trumpet, lute, and harp.
All that breathes now praise the Lord.*

*All the earth sing forth, give praise to the Lord forever.
Every voice, sing, rejoice. Sing your praise to the Lord forevermore.*

THE EPISTLE

I John 4:1-11 (ESV)

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

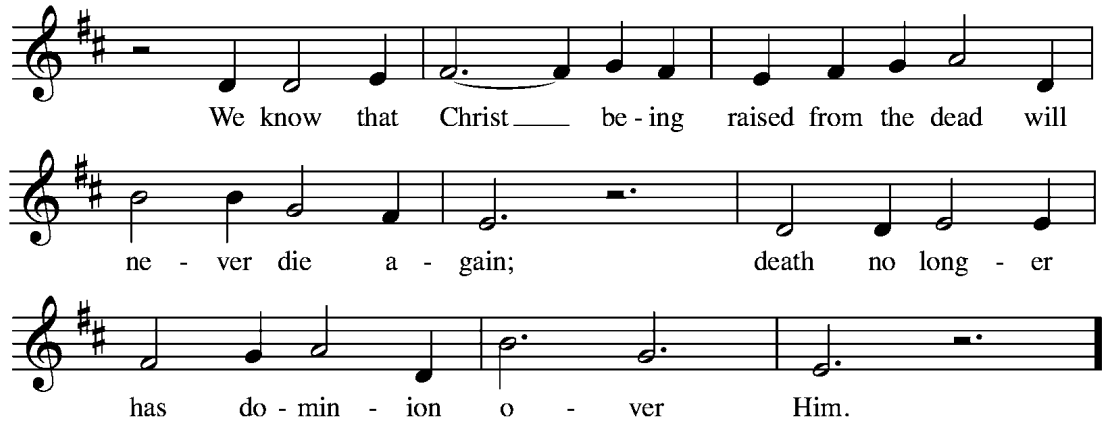
+We Face the Gospel Procession+

VERSE
REFRAIN

Romans 6:9; John 14:23b,c



C: REFRAIN
C:



C: REFRAIN

A: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him."

C: REFRAIN

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8 (ESV)

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me,

and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C:



Liturgy Spotlight *The Hymn of the Day, "Oh Love, How Deep," was written in the 15th century, most likely from an anonymous source. The original hymn had 23 stanzas and set out to instruct on the life of Jesus Christ, from Incarnation to Resurrection. In stanzas 3-6 of the modern form, we sing repeatedly two of the most amazing and comforting words of the Gospel: "For us." Jesus' whole life, death, and resurrection was done for our sake. The tune to the famous "Agincourt Hymn", DEO GRACIAS, underscores the feeling of victory we own as we sing today.*

HYMN OF THE DAY (5PM, 7:45AM & 11:15AM) "O Love, How Deep"

LSB #544

SERMON

(The 7:45AM & 11AM services continue on page 10.)

+We Stand to Confess Our Holy Faith+

THE NICENE CREED

(see inside back cover of hymnal)

THE PRAYERS

C: Lord, have mercy.

+The Tithes and Offerings are Received+

VOLUNTARY

“Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels”
Michael Joncas

(All guests and members are requested to complete an attendance card.)

+We Stand for the Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper+

OFFERTORY “To God the Holy Spirit, Let Us Pray”

LSB #768 st. 1,4

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

LSB #160

Today we commune *pilgrim style*. As space becomes available, approach the communion rail and kneel individually. After communing, you may depart whenever you wish. The blessing will be given to the whole congregation after all have communed.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“O Love, How Deep” (9AM, with stanza 1 sung by the choir) LSB #544
“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” LSB #633
“O Blessed Spring” LSB #595

DISMISSAL OF COMMUNICANTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.
P: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through ✠ Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom be glory forever and ever.
C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “We Know that Christ Is Raised”

LSB #603

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

7:45AM & 11:15AM SERVICE CONCLUSION

+We Stand to Confess Our Holy Faith+

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(see inside back cover of hymnal)

+The Tithes and Offerings Are Received+

THE OFFERING AND VOLUNTARY

+We Stand for Prayer+

OFFERTORY HYMN “To God the Holy Spirit, Let us Pray”

LSB #768

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

C: Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through ✠ Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “We Know that Christ Is Raised”

LSB #603

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING YOU TODAY

5PM

PRESIDING MINISTER:
ORGANIST:
ACOLYTES:
GUITAR:
KEYBOARD:
SACRISTANS:
COMMUNION CARE:
USHERS:

Pastor Timothy Rossow
Tom Mueller
Adam Zimmerman & Dean Parr
Steve Lindenmeyer
Trevor Magness
Jim Godshall, Rich Fick
Ina Johnson
John Killacky, Greg Berger, Michael Berger, Daniel Dierking

7:45AM

PREACHING:
LITURGIST:
ORGANIST:
ACOLYTES:
GREETERS:
WELCOME CENTER:
USHERS:

Pastor Timothy Rossow
Pastor Stephen Schumacher
Tom Mueller
Jennifer Amoroso & Beth Guebert
Dudley & Barb Lusk
Sue Dumford
Scott Freitag, Doug Splitt

9:00AM

PREACHING:
LITURGIST:
ORGANIST:
ACOLYTES:
CHOIR:
ACCOMPANIST:
GREETERS:
SACRISTANS:
COMMUNION CARE:
WELCOME CENTER:
USHERS:

Pastor Timothy Rossow
Pastor Stephen Schumacher
Tom Mueller
Kara Kolany & Grant Groset
Schola Cantorum Phillip Magness, director
Cheryl Magness
Dave & Pam Kolzow
Craig Benecke, Dave Groth, Rich Tatara, Eric Kozuh
Olson Family
John & Brenda Schnarr
Mick Herrick, Rick Grimes, Steve Schiewe, Kevin Mooney, Dennis Webb

11:15AM

PREACHING:
LITURGIST:
ORGANIST:
ACOLYTES:
GREETERS:
WELCOME CENTER:
USHERS:

Pastor Timothy Rossow
Pastor Stephen Schumacher
Tom Mueller
Beatrice Koka & Kate Schreder
Loren & Jane Buntrock
Becky Rufo
Dennis Bartelt, Joel Burke, Chris Thilk, Chad Baganz

ALTAR GUILD:
BUILDING OPENER:

Jennifer Kronemann
Steve Lindenmeyer

COMMUNION STATEMENT

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper in which we joyfully receive Christ’s Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. As these gifts are personally received, those communing together also give public witness that they are one in doctrine. In loving obedience to this teaching of Scripture, we therefore invite communicant members of all congregations in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to commune with us.