



CONNECTED AND PROTECTED

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

May 16, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assist devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything please ask one of our ushers.

Connection cards: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Worship Materials

The order of service and the hymns for today are printed for you in this folder. It is also in "Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" which is in the hymnal rack on the back of each pew. Watching the theme and passage on the screen may help you prepare for worship.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader
Pianist/Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

OPENING HYMN

Children of the Heavenly Father | 449

1 Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird or star in heaven
Such a refuge ne'er was given.

2 God his own doth tend and nourish;
In his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them;
In his mighty arms he bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth,
And their sorrows all he knoweth.

4 Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

INVOCATION

please stand

M The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

- C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

ABSOLUTION

- M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

- C **Amen.**

- M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
 they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
 ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
 ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
 ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Word

FIRST LESSON

Daniel 3:8-30

⁸At that time, some Chaldeans approached the king and maliciously accused the Jews. ⁹They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Your Majesty, may you live forever! ¹⁰You, Your Majesty, gave an order that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, the flute, the lyre, the harp, the triangular harp, the drum, and all kinds of musical instruments must fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹and whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into the blazing fiery furnace. ¹²There are Jews whom you appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely, Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego. These men do not pay attention to you, Your Majesty. They do not serve your gods, and they do not worship the gold statue that you set up."

¹³Then in a furious rage Nebuchadnezzar said to bring Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and that you do not worship the golden statue that I set up? ¹⁵Now, if you are ready, at the time when you hear the sound of the horn, the flute, the lyre, the harp, the triangular harp, the drum, and all kinds of musical instruments, you must fall down and worship the statue I made. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be thrown into the blazing fiery furnace. What god will be able to save you from my hands?"

¹⁶Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "We have no need to answer you about this matter. ¹⁷Since our God, whom we serve, does exist,

he is able to save us from the blazing fiery furnace. So, he may save us from your hand, Your Majesty. ¹⁸But if he does not, you should know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods, and we will not worship the golden statue that you set up.”

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and the expression on his face changed against Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego. He said to heat the furnace seven times hotter than it was usually heated. ²⁰He ordered some men, who were soldiers from his army, to bind Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego in order to throw them into the blazing fiery furnace. ²¹So these men were bound in their coats, their pants, their turbans, and their other clothing, and they were thrown into the middle of the blazing fiery furnace. ²²Because the king’s order was urgent and the furnace was extremely hot, those men who carried Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego were killed by the intense heat of the fire. ²³But these three men, Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, who had been tied up, fell into the blazing fiery furnace.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar was startled and immediately stood up. He said to his advisors, “Didn’t we throw three men, who had been tied up, into the middle of the fire?”

They answered the king, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

²⁵He said, “Look! I see four men, who are untied and walking around in the middle of the fire, unharmed. What is more, the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.”

²⁶Then Nebuchadnezzar approached the door of the blazing fiery furnace. He said, “Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out!” Then Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego came out from the middle of the furnace. ²⁷The satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the royal advisors gathered together and looked at these men. The fire had no power over their bodies. Not a hair on their head was singed, their robes were not damaged, and the smell of fire had not stuck to them.

²⁸Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego, who sent his angel and saved his servants, who trusted in God and ignored the king’s command. They gave up their bodies and did not pay homage or worship any god except their God. ²⁹So I have issued an order that every people, nation, and language that speaks any blasphemy against the God of Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego shall be cut to pieces, and his house shall be turned into a pile of rubble, because there is no other god who is able to save like this.”

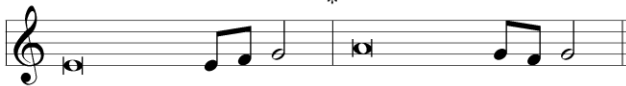
³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrak, Meshak, and Abednego in the province of Babylon. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God!**

Refrain


Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

Psalm tone


I am always with you, O LORD;*
you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,*
and afterward you will take me into glory.

Whom have I in heaven but you?*

And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,*
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Acts 7:54-60

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶He said, "Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. ⁵⁸They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" ⁶⁰Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." After he said this, he fell asleep. (EHV)

M The word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia.

**♪ I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you And give you peace.**

CW 332

GOSPEL

John 17:11b-19

please stand

M The Gospel according to John chapter 17.

Holy Father, protect them by your name, which you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept those you gave me safe in your name. I protected them and not one of them was destroyed, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

¹³But now I am coming to you, and I am saying these things in the world, so that they may be filled with my joy. ¹⁴I have given them your word. The world hated them, because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I am not asking

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD.

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income. 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M O Lord God, we thank you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the promised graces we have received through him. We thank you that through his perfect life and his obedience to death on the cross we have been granted cleansing and pardon for all our sins. We thank you that in his resurrection we have the promise of life everlasting.

C **We rejoice that in his ascension to the right hand of your majesty we have the assurance that he continually intercedes for us.**

M Help us believe and trust in him, love and serve him, that in all our thoughts, words, and actions we may manifest his spirit.

C **Rebuke our selfishness and subdue our self-indulgence. Increase our love, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.**

M Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered in you alone, so that no difficulty, trial, or adversity rob us of the conviction that you are our helper in every time of need. Relieve the afflictions of the weary and the sick, and dry the tears of the troubled and sorrowful.

C **Lead them to look to you as the unfailing spring of healing and hope.**

Special prayers may be added here.

M All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

be seated

1 I walk in danger all the way; The thought shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey, Is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares May seize me unawares
If e'er I fail to watch and pray; I walk in danger all the way.

2 I pass through trials all the way, With sin and ills contending;
In patience I must bear each day The cross of God's own sending.
Oft in adversity I know not where to flee
When storms of woe my soul dismay; I pass through trials all the way.

3 Grim death pursues me all the way; Nowhere I rest securely.
He comes by night, he comes by day, And takes his prey most surely.
A failing breath, and I In death's strong grasp may lie
To face eternity today. Grim death pursues me all the way.

4 I walk with angels all the way; They shield me and befriend me.
All Satan's pow'r is held at bay When heav'nly hosts attend me.
They are my sure defense; All fear and sorrow, hence!
Unharmed by foes, do what they may, I walk with angels all the way.

5 I walk with Jesus all the way; His guidance never fails me.
He takes my ev'ry fear away When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by his footsteps led, My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may, I walk with Jesus all the way.

6 My walk is heav'nward all the way; Await, my soul, the morrow,
When you farewell can gladly say To all your sin and sorrow.
All worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay; My walk is heav'nward all the way.

PRAYER

☒ O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

- M** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

Yours Forever; God of Love | 426





- 1 Yours forever, God of love! Hear us from your throne above;
Yours forever may we be Here and in eternity!
- 2 Yours forever, oh, how blest They who find in you their rest!
Savior, Guardian, heav'nly Friend, Oh, defend us to the end.
- 3 Yours forever, Lord of life! Shield us through our earthly strife.
You, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.
- 4 Yours forever! Shepherd, keep All your weak and trembling sheep
Safely in your tender care; Let us all your goodness share.
- 5 Yours forever! You our guide, All our needs by you supplied,
All our sins by you forgiv'n, Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

App available: Scan the QR code. This will take you to our church connect site. Once there, click on the options in our browser and click "Add to Home Screen" The Grace Church App is now installed on your phone. This lets you easily go to the livestream, use online giving, submit a prayer request, go to our website or Facebook page, or, if you log in, update your membership records and check your giving records. Check it out.



To rejoice in the truth of free forgiveness in Jesus and to share this good news with everyone.

Welcome! Please [sign in](#).

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<p>Give a Gift</p>  <p>Click this to go to our online giving page.</p>	<p>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 1:9</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">shelburne.com + 2033651076</p> <p>Find Us On Facebook Click here to go to our Facebook page.</p>
 <p>Visitors Connection Card Please let us know you were here and how we might connect with you. Glad you chose to worship with us.</p>	 <p>Prayer Requests Submit your prayer requests and indicate if they are to be public or private.</p>	

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship

Tuesday: Blue River Pastors Meeting at Mt. Olive Lincoln

Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship

Please plan to join us for the Self-Assessment Adjustment Bible Study and discussion with District President Hirsch on June 26 from 9-3 at NELHS. The joint Bethel/Grace voters meeting will follow.

Please take the time to go online and fill out the Pulse survey.

<https://welsccc.survey.fm/pulse-survey-bethel-in-york>

If you are willing and able to help with updates in the NELHS boys dorm during the last weeks of May, call the school and they can let you know what needs to be done.

There will be a farewell for Ms. Laurel Coates on June 6, 5:30 PM at East Hill Park in York. You can sign up to bring things at this link.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15LvwovZKTvc6h71pVozzOAlvCRfPIpRSAMo07NHYMQ/edit#gid=2110831744>

There will be an "Ammo Can" door offering on May 30 for the Lutheran Military Support Group. Information on this group can be found at www.lutheranmilitary.org.

Thanks to the Ewerdt/Nunnenkamp/Sutton church for the gift of a guest register lectern. It was made by Al Ewerdt.



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethelyork



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 58 in person, Facebook Live 3, Clicks , Audio/Slide service 7. Offerings: For operating expenses, Given 3,105.05, Needed 2,856.06, Trinity 45.00. **To God be the glory!**



I hope you enjoyed our series "Connected". Video of the sermons are available on YouTube at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdEFRJeFDd05TSV1tXj_fHg

Or click the link for "video sermons" in the app.

Video of the whole service is available on our Facebook page.

Audio podcasts of the sermons are available at <https://anchor.fm/mark-haefner>.

Please share with anyone you think might be interested.