



**HE LIVES TO CALL ME TO LIVE FOR HIM**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*May 10, 2026*

## **SERIES THEME: WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?**

Life is full of either/or moments. Some of them are of little long-term consequence. I will have either the chicken or the fish. Some of them matter more. I will accept the new job offer or keep my current job. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things. . . be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31). So if Jesus remains dead, he is both a failure and a fraud. If Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sin. But Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! It makes all the difference! He lives!

## **THEME OF THE DAY: HE LIVES TO CALL ME TO LIVE FOR HIM**

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would be tempted to live only for myself. After all, I have to be in good shape before I can be of help to anyone else, right? I think I know what's right for me, and I can identify when other people are standing in the way of my self-improvement. If Jesus is dead, I don't have to worry about what he said or what he thinks. But he lives, and it makes a difference. He takes care of my basic needs. He promises to do more for me than I can imagine. He puts people into my life so I can help them. Now I live for him.

**Worship Leader**

Pastor Justin Wilkens

**Organist/Pianist**

Debbie Owen

**Bethel's Council:** Tom Worster (President), Stan Nolte (Education), Alan Gotta (Head Elder), Quinton Corwin (Evangelism), Robert Richert (Trustee), Steve Remmers (Treasurer), Timothy Richert (Secretary)

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **The Service, Setting Three (page 188 in Christian Worship 21)**

### **Hymn: 605 From All That Dwell below the Skies**

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

*CW 189*

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

*CW 190*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



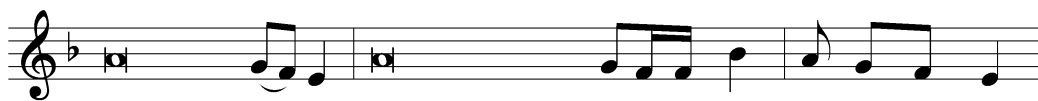
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



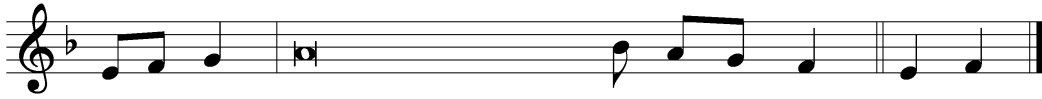
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Acts 17:22–31*

*God has determined exactly where and when we would live so that we can repent and believe the good news of Jesus' resurrection.*

<sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood up in front of the council of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I was walking around and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, 'To an

unknown god.' Now what you worship as unknown—this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup>"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands. <sup>25</sup>Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have. <sup>26</sup>From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the boundaries where they would live. <sup>27</sup>He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'Indeed, we are also his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup>"Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning. <sup>30</sup>Although God overlooked the times of ignorance, he is now commanding all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness by the man he appointed. He provided proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

*1 Peter 3:13–22*

*St. Peter teaches that baptism saves us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

### **Suffering for Doing Good**

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should happen to suffer because of righteousness, you are blessed. Do not be afraid of what they fear, and do not be troubled. <sup>15</sup>But regard the Lord, the Christ, as holy in your hearts.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you.

<sup>16</sup>But speak with gentleness and respect, while maintaining a clear conscience, so that those who attack your good way of life in Christ may be put to shame because they slandered you as evildoers.

### **The Suffering and Exaltation of Christ**

<sup>17</sup>Indeed, it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil, <sup>18</sup>because Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. <sup>20</sup>These spirits disobeyed long ago,

when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. <sup>21</sup>And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*John 14:15,16*



*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

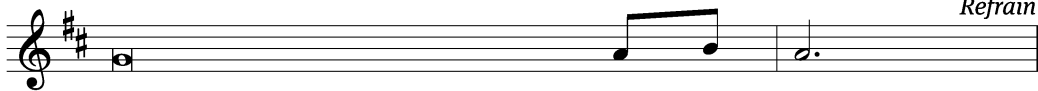


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Tone*



If you love me, keep my com - mands.



And I will ask the Father,  
and he will give you another advocate to help you.

*Refrain*

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## **Gospel**

*John 14:15–21*

*Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to lead us in faith.*

<sup>15</sup>"If you love me, hold on to my commands. <sup>16</sup>I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it does not see him or know him. You know him because he stays with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will see me no longer, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>The one who has my commands and holds on to them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I too will love him and show myself to him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day: 557 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**

**Sermon:** 1 Peter 3:13-22

*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

Lord of life, fill our hearts with joy during this Easter season, for you have risen and conquered the grave. Imprint the message of victory on our hearts and implant it in our minds. Through the good news of your resurrection renew our hope and revive our faith. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

By baptizing us into your name, you have connected us to your death and rising. You have put our sin to death and have given us a new life. Enable us each day to think of ourselves as dead to sin and alive to you, so that we may walk in newness of life in all we do. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

In this fallen world, death and sorrow surround us. Touch the hearts of those who grieve the loss of a Christian they love. Direct their eyes to your empty tomb and ease their pain by reminding them that their loved ones will one day rise again. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, many people grieve without hope. Let the message of resurrection reach them and awaken faith in their hearts. Use us as your instruments to bring the word of life to their souls and the message of hope to their hearts. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Stay by the side of all who are suffering. In your wise mercy, heal those who are sick, receiving treatment for illness, recovering from illness or surgery, or hurting in body or mind. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Remind them that your victory over death is a fact, and comfort them with your promise to raise them and give them and all believers new, glorified bodies like yours. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Risen Savior, feed our faith with the message of your resurrection. Come to us in your Word and in the feast of your Sacrament to sustain and strengthen us until we feast with you in eternal glory.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

**Offering Hymn: 745 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying**

*sts. 1, 4*

# THE SACRAMENT

Stand

## Preface

CW 199

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



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 in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Lamb of God

CW 202



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, grant us peace.

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*Be seated*

## Distribution

**Close Communion** We ask that only those who have previously spoken to our pastor or are members in good standing of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to Holy Communion today. Our practice of Close Communion (which has been the practice of the Christian Church throughout the ages) is in no way trying to judge anyone's faith. What we are trying to do is follow the Bible's clear teaching (1 Corinthians 11) to first study God's Word together. As we do so, we can share with/review with you what the Lord's Supper is all about. You, then, also have an opportunity to examine what we believe and teach before you come to the Lord's Supper and make a public profession that you agree with what we teach.

**Distribution Hymn: 665 What Is This Bread**

**Distribution Hymn: 668 Jesus Comes Today With Healing**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

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.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: 617 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** 9:30 AM Bible Study, 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Bible Study, 10:30 AM Worship

**Thursday, May 14th:** 6:30 PM Ascension Worship Service at grace

**CONNECTION CARDS:** Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at [www.bethelyork.com](http://www.bethelyork.com) on the member connect tab or scan this code.



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Worship, Offerings: Operating: Needed 3,135.71, Given.  
**To God be the glory!**

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