

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

"You have a place here! Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love. Here and now God dwells in all of our lives, bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."

TODAY WE CELEBRATE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am on Sunday, May 17, 2020

Holy Communion Worship

Pr. Dave Johnson, presiding



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.

ALL ARE WELCOME

The family of Bethany hopes that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy.

If you are visiting today, you are invited to the Communion Table.

As Christians of the Reformation tradition, we believe that the Sacrament of the Altar is the Real Presence of Christ's body and blood, instituted by Christ Himself as a sign of unity. All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction—the dipping of the wafer into the wine when the chalice is offered. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. The assembly is to line up down center aisle and return to seats by side aisles.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR EASTER SEASON

Minister/Leaders speak regular print—Congregation speaks bold print

Arrow directives indicate the following: ▲ stand if able ▼ be seated

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome and Greeting**

▼ **Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Invocation**

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

Amen.

▲ **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,

you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
 for the water in this font,
 and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
 Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise
 through Jesus Christ our Lord
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

▲ **Confession and Forgiveness**

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.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
 But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins
 and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage 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.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and,
for his sake, 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.

▼ **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.

▲ **Prayer of the Day**

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 WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

A reading from Acts, Chapter 17, verses 21-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 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. 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, 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. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 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.’ 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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 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.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

▼ ***God’s Word from the Psalms (NRSV)***

Let us read responsively Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

**who has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.**

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

**You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;**

you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

**I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay you my vows,**

those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

**I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**



6 Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.
I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me.

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

A reading from 1 Peter, Chapter 3, verses 13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 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, 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; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

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, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 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 persons, were saved through water.

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, who has gone into 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.

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

The Holy Gospel according to John, Chapter 14, verses 15-21

Glory to you, O Lord.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth,

whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You⁷ know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 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.

▼ *Sermon—God’s Word Applied to Life*

▼ *Hymn of the Day*

“What Wondrous Love Is This” (page 12)

▲ *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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**



**We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

▲ **Prayers of Intercession**

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection,
 we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church,
 the world, and all who are in need. *(A brief silence)*

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ.
 Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love
 to everyone in our speaking and in our living.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the creator of heaven and earth.
 Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers,
 and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call all people of the world your children.
 Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed,
 and speak truth to power through your prophets.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress.
 We pray for those who suffer in any way. We ask your special blessings for . . .
*Al Patrick, Don Gattra, Tom Temple, Mike, Erick Schultz, Tony Solda, Ron Arnold,
 Terry, Kierstin, Jen, Arlene Coulter, Dan Gyselinck, Paula Conery, Ryan Dedo,
 Blake Sternhagen, and Jean Guldswoog,
 those who have received prayer shawls and are in need of comfort,
 those who have requested special prayers through our website,
 and others that we now name silently or aloud.*

(brief silence)

In every situation help them to know you are with them always.
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your commands are good and merciful.
 Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice,
 advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed
 and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit.
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We offer our own prayers to You, either silently or aloud.
(other intercessions may be offered)

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end.
 We remember the saints who have gone before us.
 Unite us forever in your final victory over death.
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God,
 we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care;
 through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

▲ *Sharing of the Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Greet each other with love and the sign of Christ's peace, then be seated

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

▼ *Offering and Presentation of the Gifts*

*April—June Mission ~ Northern Great Lakes Synod Seminarian Scholarship Fund
 Special envelopes available—(make checks to Bethany Lutheran Church)*

▲ *The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution*

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, 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.

▲ **The 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.

▲ **Invitation To Communion**

Come to the banquet. Behold the risen Christ.

▼ **Distribution of Communion**

▲ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again.
 In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
 Amen.

▲ **Post Communion Prayer**

Life-giving God,
 you have fed us with your word, and our hearts burn within us.
 Through this meal you have opened us to your presence.
 Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▲ **Hymn of Sending**

"Jesus Loves Me" (page 13)

▲ **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
 In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

▼ **Announcements**

Anyone is welcome to announce any upcoming events or share thoughts of interest

▲ **Dismissal**

Christ is risen, just as he said.
 Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



The Garden Girls of Bethany
 would like to get the outdoor flowers
 planted around June 1st.
 Your donations would go towards flowers
 for the outdoor areas of Bethany.
 Please make your checks payable to
 Bethany Lutheran Church
 "Garden Flowers" in the memo section.
 Thanks so much.



What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Jesus Loves Me!



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Ministers	All the members of this Body of Christ
Church Address	130 O'Dill Dr., Norway, MI 49870
Pastor	Pr. David Johnson
Pastor's Hours	Mon & Thurs—9am—12pm and by appointment
Emergency Phone	651-769-3365
Pastor's Email	ftp565@yahoo.com
Office Secretaries	Linda Hawkinson
Office Hours	Mon & Thurs-9am-12pm; Tue & Wed—flex time, call first
Office Phone	906-563-8472
Office Email	bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com
Website	www.norwaybethany.org

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVE AS WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY . . .

Leader	Pr. Dave Johnson
Greeters/Ushers	
Lector	
Prayer Assistant	
Communion Assistant	
Music/Audio	
Altar Guild	

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flower sign up forms at front entry - \$15 per bouquet (checks: Bethany Ladies Guild)

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