

# 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."*

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## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Sunday, May 17, 2026

*Pastor David Johnson*

### TODAY'S REFLECTION



In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

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*All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling  
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

*“My Lord, What a Morning” page 9*

▲ **In Confession & Forgiveness for Easter Worship**

We serve a risen Savior yet we live as if in chains. Forgive us, Lord that we are so hesitant to live the resurrection life. Forgive us that we fail to show through word and action the truth that you loved us into your kingdom through the glorious mystery of the Cross.

Forgive us that there is still fear in our lives that prevents us from achieving our full potential. Draw us close. Open our eyes to the glory of the risen Christ, our hearts to the wonder of the Cross and our hands to the service of your kingdom where you have placed us, that your name might be glorified through our lives. **Amen.**

*Silence for Reflection*

God of resurrection of life and death and rebirth **renew our hearts and minds**

God of promise of all beginnings and all endings **renew our hearts and minds**

God of hope of new growth and harvest **renew our hearts and minds**

(by John Birch, Faith and Worship Blogspot)

▲ **Absolution**

▲ **Prayer of the Day**

**O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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**THE WORD**

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

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

*The First Reading is from Acts 1:6-14*

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or

periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

*Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35*

Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.  
**As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.**

But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.  
**Sing to God; sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds — his name is the Lord — be exultant before him.**

Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.  
**God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.**

O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,  
**the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;

**your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord,**

O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

**Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel and whose power is in the skies.**

Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

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

*The Second Reading is from 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▼ **Children's Sermon**

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

*The Holy Gospel according to John 17:1-11*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ Sermon—God’s Word Applied to Life

▼ Hymn of the Day

“You Are Mine” page 10

▲ The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

▼ Recognition of the Graduates

▲ Prayers of the Church

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence*

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick, especially for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment, and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.*

**THE MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

Mission Designation April—June—Fortune Lake

▼ **Offering Prayer**

Merciful God, **accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

▼ **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 and Distribution of Communion**

Come to the table of new life.  
Receive the risen Lord.

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

▼ **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**

Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

▼ **Closing Hymn**

*“Shine, Jesus, Shine, page 11*

▼ **Announcements**

*Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time*

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

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.**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

# My Lord, What a Morning

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



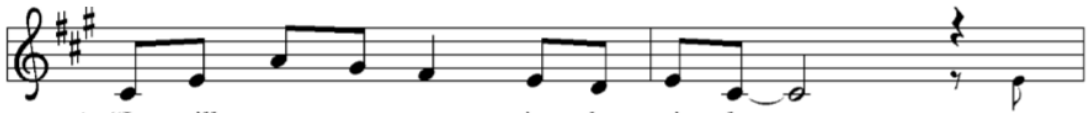
look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

*Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

# You Are Mine

Text: David Haas, b. 1957  
 Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas  
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1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,  
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,  
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,  
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.  
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the  
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be  
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*  
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*  
 all will know my name. *To refrain*  
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*

*Refrain*



Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I

*To stanzas 3 and 4*



love you and you are mine."

# Shine, Jesus, Shine

*Refrain*

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;  
 blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
 Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;  
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -  
 dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,  
 set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

*Refrain*  
 Shine on me, shine on me:  
 Shine on me, shine on me:

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

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## ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

are available following these easy steps from our secure Website or Facebook Page

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## MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

## BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

**Sunday**      9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video

**Tuesday**      9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room  
9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom

**Wednesday**      10:30 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM

**Thursday**      7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room  
11:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room  
6:30 Pub Theology

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