



6th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026



The Episcopal Church



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



Bethany
Lutheran Church

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Praise!

Share!

Serve!

Welcome to Bethany!

Bethany recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our midst persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

You may place your gifts and offerings in the offering plate as you enter the sanctuary. We will not be passing the plate. Thank you and God Bless

Ring of the Bells

Announcements:

Prelude:

We Gather as God's People

(Please stand as you are able)

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

Come, Thou Almighty King

1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be

help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in

to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise: "Now the Feast and Celebration"

ELW 167

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray

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.

(Please be seated)

We Hear God's Word for Us

First Lesson: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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, ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ 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.'

²⁹ "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. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ 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

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:8-20 (SPOKEN responsively. Organ side starts, piano side is in bold)

⁸ Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹ **Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹ **You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³ **I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

- ¹⁴ those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- ¹⁵ **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**
- ¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.
- ¹⁷ **I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**
- ¹⁸ If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;
- ¹⁹ **but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**
- ²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ 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 lives, were saved through water. ²¹ 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, ²² 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 **C: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation:

ELW 174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' written below each staff. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff continues the melody and lyrics.

The Gospel according to John 14:15-21

C: Glory to you O Lord

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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 Our Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ

(Please be seated)

Reflection

(Please stand as you are able)

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.

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

ELW 742

(Verse 1 - sung before the prayers only)

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

(Please be seated)

Prayers of Intercession

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.

God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill *especially*. those from **Bethany** Adam, Joanne Hitchcock, Kay Backhus, Kristen Clemens Keenan, Nancy Rebeyro, Ron Aaron, Steve, Louise Koenig, Barb Franklin, Marcia Wray, Merrill & Muriel Frable, Robert Keenan, Dorothy Porter, Sylvia Subject, Gail Cross, Heather Miller, Carl Zimmerman, Louise Koenig, Barb Franklin, Andy Carlson, Heather Miller, Tim Johnson, Jamie Molyneayx, Frann Wilson, Kevin McClelland, the family of Judy Davis and those from **St. Stephens:** Audrey Childs, Nancy Consedine, Amanda Piccirillo, Betty Linderman, Linda Giardini, Gail Olson, Gloria Preston, Dick Mulaski, Ethan Johnson, Steven, Colt Matz, Dave and Donna Briggs, Rev. Max Meyers, Millie Piccirillo, Martha Edwards, Jim and Kathy, Priscilla and Nelson Griffith, Carolyn Wolfe, Denise, Helen Stritoff, Kienen Duggan, David Styles, Carol Snyder, Adam Wolfe, Jim Fragle, and those we name either silently or aloud. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. 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.

(Please stand as you are able)

The Sharing Of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

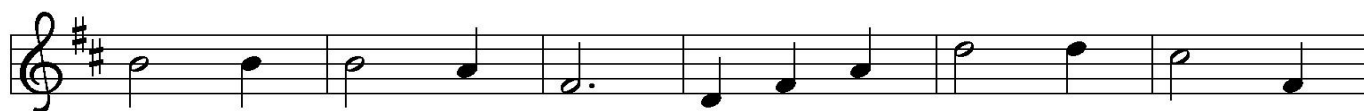
C: And also with you.

P: Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
 me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

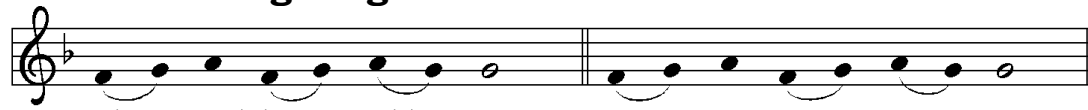
Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413
 Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936
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We Share the Holy Meal at God's Table

Great Thanksgiving

s161



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

P: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you. It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people. And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ. Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.

Amen

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom as we pray . . .

**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**

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

(Please be seated)

**As you come to the altar, please form a single line...individual cups are to the right, common cup is to the left, and if intinction is preferred you may use either side.*

Invitation to Communion

(Christ is our host and Our Communion Table is open to anyone who wishes to partake of the Lord's Supper. As Lutheran Christians we believe Christ to be really present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins.)

Communion: "Lamb of God"



☞ 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; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Music:

(Please stand as you are able)

Post Communion Prayer

P: 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.

Post Communion Canticle: "This Joyful Eastertide" ELW 391 (Verse 1 & Refrain Only)

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - - row.
wake the dead in num - - ber.
pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

We Are Sent to Share the Good News

Blessing:

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
 Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
 ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

O Zion, Haste

1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,

to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,

one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain

Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,

tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

Dismissal:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude:

**Today's Worship Servants
Worship Leader Fran Wilson**

Ministers: the people of Bethany

Organist: Ray Sprout/Jack Bollman

Lay Lector: Gail Cross

Counter: Chris Brainard

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This week in our parish

Today 5/10

10:30 Worship Service

5:30 AA Meeting

Mon 5/11

5:30 AA Meeting

Tue 5/12

5:30 AA Meeting

Wed 5/13

12:00 Book Study

5:30 AA Meeting

Thu 5/14

5:30 TOPS

Sun 5/17

10:30 Worship Service St. Stephen's

BETHANY Council meets next Sunday following worship at St. Stephens

In the spirit of *#churchtogether*, Frann Wilson, Synod Authorized Minister, presides at God's table today with the thanks of and authorization by the bishop of the Upstate New Yor Synod

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL MOTHERS AND THOSE WHO SERVE A MOTHERING ROLE.....

**SMILES: God bless those with a sense of humor!
Hearing Problem!?**

Bert feared his wife Cheri wasn't hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid.

Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family doctor to discuss the problem. The doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the doctor a better idea about her hearing loss.

"Here's what you do," said the doctor. "Stand about 40 feet away from her and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet and on until you get a response."

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner and he was in the den. He says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens." Then in a normal tone he asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?" No response.

So the husband moves closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats. "Cheri, what's for dinner?" Still no response.

Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again he gets no response.

So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again there is no response. So he walks right up behind her. "Cheri, what's for dinner?"

"HOLY CRAP, Bert. For the fifth time, CHICKEN!!"