



5th Sunday of Easter

Worship with Holy Communion

May 7, 2023

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church



We are glad you are here, and we pray God will be real to you as you worship with us. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation; therefore, we invite all people, including those of all races, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, ages, economic levels, and abilities. God loves all creation and holds us all, so we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors. We honor and appreciate the rich diversity of age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity and expression, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care.

Communion - We will celebrate Holy Communion together via Zoom, as well as gathered in person. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready if you and those with you would like to participate. If you do not have access to wine or grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup—Christ is present in the bread, as Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.” (John 6:35)

GATHERING

Prelude

Behold a Host, Arrayed in White
Traditional Norwegian



Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. An all gender restroom is located behind the worship space next to the church office. Please ask the Usher or Greeter for assistance. There is also a rocking chair in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please use it as you wish.

Address 5658 North Denver Avenue • **Portland, Oregon** 97217 • **Email** bethel@bethelpdx.org • **Website** www.bethelpdx.org

Confession and Absolution

Please stand in body or spirit

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.



Gathering Song of Praise

Glory Be to God in Heaven

Verse 1



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

Scripture Reading

1Peter 2:2-10

A reading from Peter.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

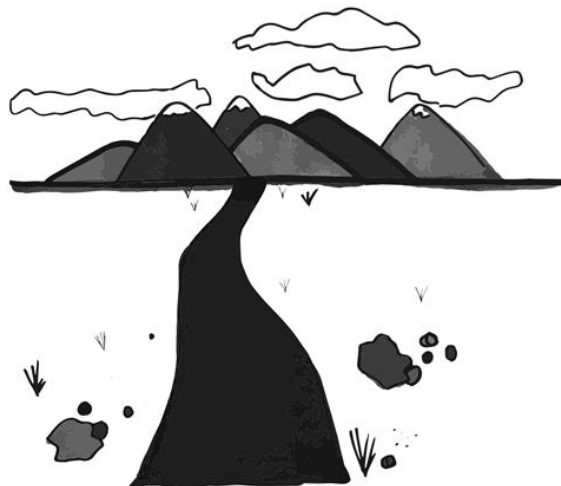
"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In God's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to God except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know God also. From now on you do know God and have seen God."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us God, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen God. How can you say, 'Show us God?' ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in God and God is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but God who dwells in me does God's works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in God and God is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to God. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that God may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

Please be seated

Children's Time

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit

Come My Way, My Truth, My Life

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes his guest.
part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1632

Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer is: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sharing of Peace — *Take time to share the peace on Zoom and in person*

Please be seated

COMMUNION MEAL

For those worshiping virtually, please gather your bread and wine to participate in Holy Communion.

Offering

You may use one of our options for giving: Venmo @BethelLutheran-Church phone # digits 6064, Paypal, see our website bethelpdx.org for link, online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> Additionally you may donate by mail. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!

Offertory

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Generous God,

in this meal you offer your very self.

We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.

In the breaking of this bread

reveal to us the Risen One.

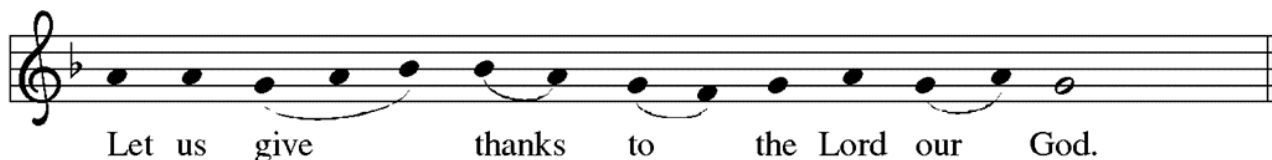
In the pouring of this wine

pour us out in service to the world;

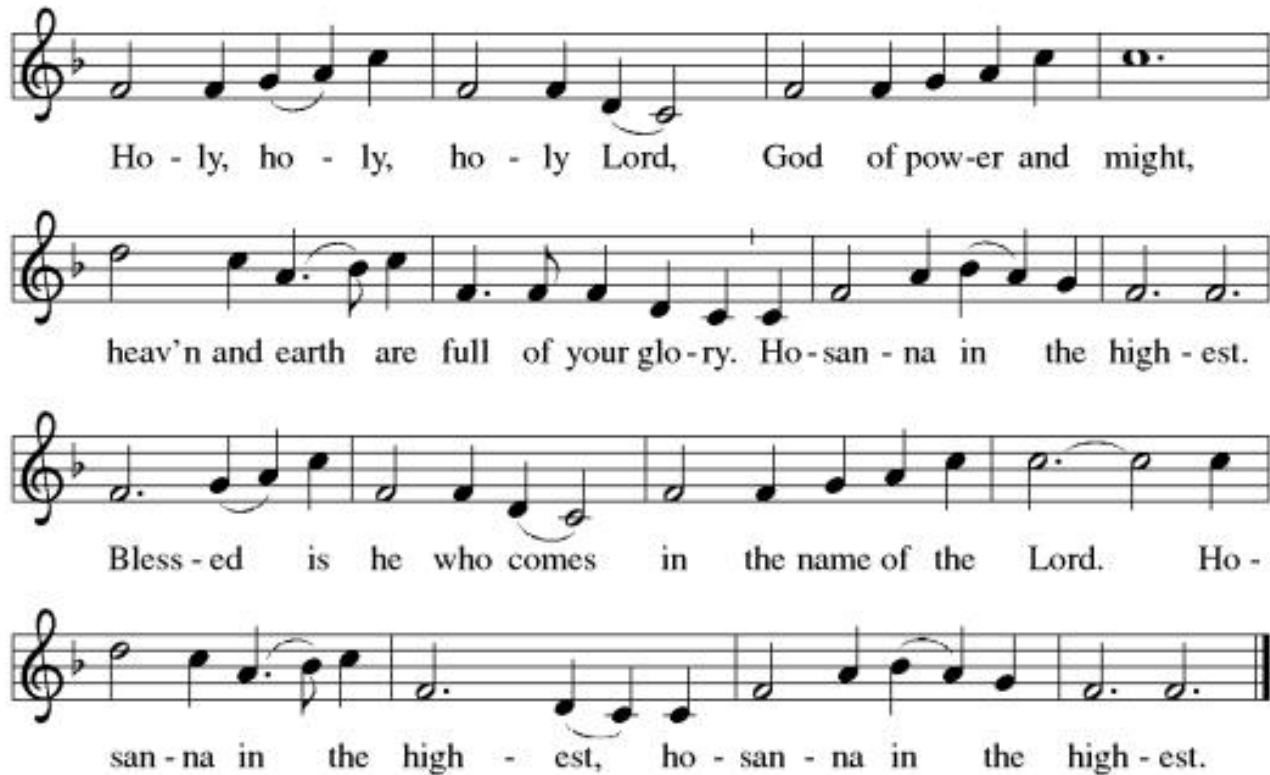
through Christ our Lord.

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand in body or spirit The Pastor will guide you when to take the bread and cup to eat and drink.



The Thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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.

*The presiding minister continues with the Thanksgiving at the Table. At the end, all say: **Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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.

Please be seated

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Si mes vers avaient des ailes

By Reynaldo Hahn

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.
Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

The God of all,
who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.
Amen.

Sending Song

Le Cygne
By Camille Saint-Saëns

The Sending.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God.

Stewardship of Service	This week – May 7, 2023	Next week – May 14, 2023
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Musician	Jenny Peterson	Shlomo Farber
Reader	Dorian Bentley	Jared Burdick
Zoom Host	Joann Knoll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray for:

Pray for the women of Iran that they may speak out in safety and be heard and honored.

Pray for all those on the Turkey/Syrian boarder who have suffered great loss due the earthquake.

Pray for Farid Owji, a cousin to a friend of Pastor Leon, who is a journalist in Iran who was jailed for 27 days. Help him to heal from his trauma and help him as he seeks safety and asylum in other countries.

Let us continue to pray for all victims of gun violence.

Pray for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Seaside, OR. Let us lift them up in the spirit of congeniality, and partnership to live out the gospel message with our neighbors.

Pray for peace and justice in Russia and Ukraine

Pray for peace and justice and safety among our houseless neighbors. Help us understand how we can share your love with them.

Pray for Bethel leaders, including Pastor Leon LaCross, Music Director Shlomo Farber, YDIC Summer Program Director Heather Anderson, Admin Assistant Kerry Czuba, the 2023 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for those going through our confirmation program that they grow in faith and have a deeper understanding of Jesus as someone who is a guiding, loving force in their lives.

Pray for our children, as they work on the 2nd half the school year. May they finish out the year with a yearning to learn more.

Pray for those who are ill:

- **Neil Marshall** (Nash's Portland family) as Neil undergoes treatment for a brain tumor while newly returned to his home base
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) and all her family who are caregiving and traveling and dealing with plumbing adventures in Faith's older home.
- **David Gyles** for his improved lung health
- **Leo Lawrence** as he continues treatment for cancer
- **John Knight and family** as John continues in memory care
- **Laura Day**, mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer
- **Donald Gibler**, grandson of Laverne Atkins, who has experienced a set back due to a previous injury.
- **Gary Andeen** as he receives treatments for lung cancer.
- **Amy Bishop McDonald** for her diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer.
- **Chuck Huntley**, brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.
- **Jules Auger's wife Carol** who is recovering from hip surgery.
- **Harry Griffin (Pastor Keys grandson) & family**, continue prayers for his recovery.
- **Glenn Chase** for continued good results on medical tests.
- **Marjorie Strieff** for improved health.

Pray for all those who have passed away that they experience the loving embrace of God's love.

Pray for Miles Bard as he transitions to moving back to Portland.

Continuing prayers for well-being for our loved ones **Timothy, Elizabeth, Faith, Jim, Rob, Jacob, Miles, Andrew, Nash,** and **Patricia**--may they walk in light and peace.

Pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings received this week.

Pray we know that God is close and we are open to receiving and sharing God's love.

Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.

Join us today!

Board Game Day at Bethel

May 7 at 11:15 AM to 1:30 PM

Come join us as we connect with one another through games after church.

Interested in learning a new strategy game? We will have a large number of board games and card games.

Feel free to bring one of your favorites too!

Kids who have confirmation are welcome to join afterward.

Pizza and Salads will be served.



Hard times

God is with you even in the hard times. Stephen knew God was with him. How would you help this boy and this girl in their hard times? How would you pray for them?



We pray for people facing hard or sad times. Be with them. Be with us as we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

This week

Find small stones. Wrap a bright colored piece of fabric around small stones and tie it with a ribbon to make prayer rocks. Keep one for yourself and give one to someone going through a hard time.

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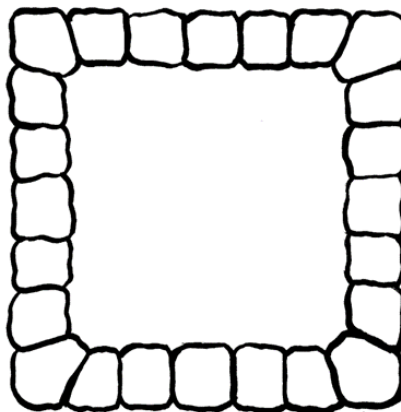


gather

Welcome to worship.

Today is the fifth Sunday of Easter.

Draw a picture of a house made from stones, making a special stone, or cornerstone, at one of the lower corners.



What would happen if someone took out the cornerstone? The shaky house would fall down! Jesus is the cornerstone of our lives. Without him our lives are shaky, too.

hear & celebrate

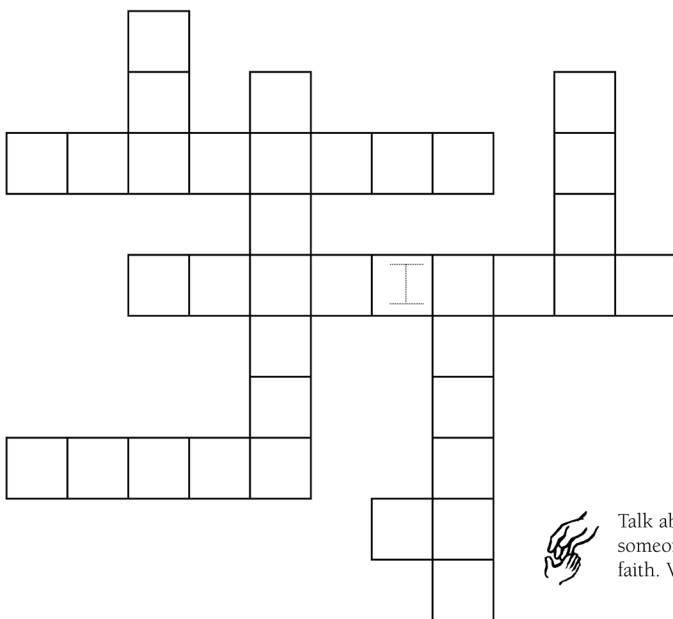
I am

John 14:1-14

Jesus taught his disciples how to believe in him: "Don't be troubled or worried. Believe in God, the Father, and in me. I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus reminded them to keep praying to God: "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Our lives begin with Jesus at the center of all we do. Trace the letter "I" in the center box of the puzzle. Fit the underlined words above into the crossword puzzle below.



Talk about the word *martyr*, which means someone like Stephen who gives his life for his faith. What do you "give up" for your faith?

Stephen built his life on the solid rock of God's word and preached about God. There were people who did not want Stephen to speak. They were so angry they killed him by throwing stones. But Stephen believed in God's word and prayed to God before he died.

