



# 6th Sunday of Easter

Worship with Holy Communion

May 5, 2024

## 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.

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**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**

**Voluntary XII**

By Georg Friedrich Haendel



*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](mailto:bethel@bethelpdx.org) • **Website** [www.bethelpdx.org](http://www.bethelpdx.org)

## Greeting

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

# A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

## Verses 1-3



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the  
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the  
5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers  
sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they  
sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



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

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

# WORD

## Scripture Reading

**Acts 10:44-48**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

## Scripture Reading

**1 John 5:1-6**

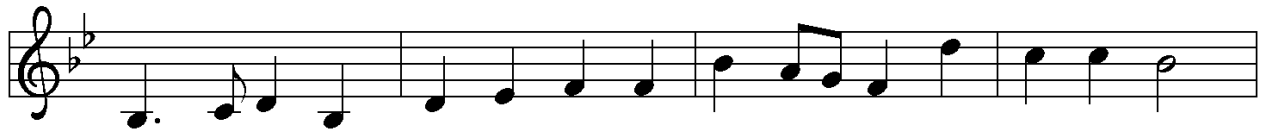
A reading from 1 John.

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



## Gospel Acclamation



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 15:9-17**

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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

## Children’s Time

## Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

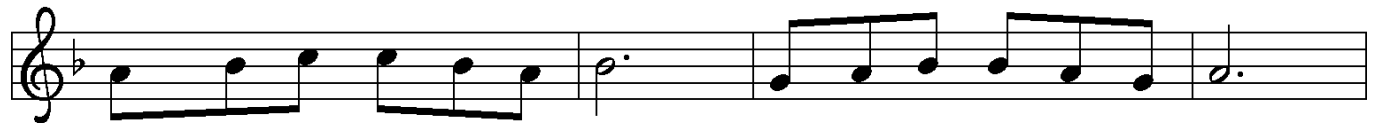
## Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love



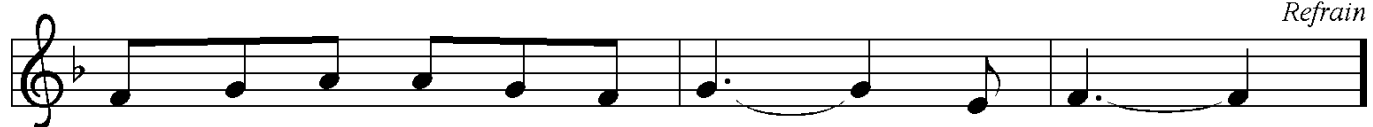
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
- 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
- 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

*Refrain*

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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## Prayers of Intercession

*The response to each prayer is: God of Grace, hear our prayer.*

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

# COMMUNION MEAL

*For those worshipping 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](http://bethelpdx.org) for link, online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> Additionally you may donate by mail or, if worshipping in-person, use the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!*

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Risen One,**

**you call us to believe and bear fruit.**

**May the gifts that we offer here**

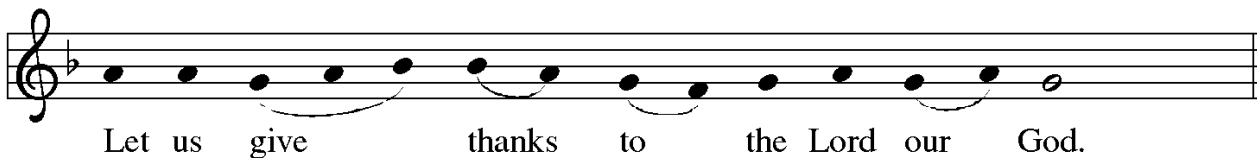
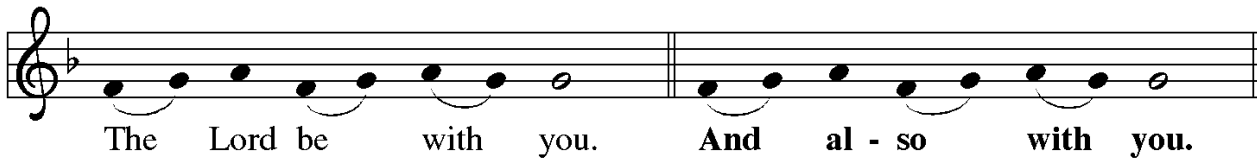
**be signs of your abiding love.**

**Form us to be your witnesses in the world,**

**through Jesus Christ, our true vine.**

## Great Thanksgiving

*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.**

## **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

### **Communion Music**

### **How Deep Is Your Love**

*By Bee Gees*





# SENDING

## Announcements

### Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

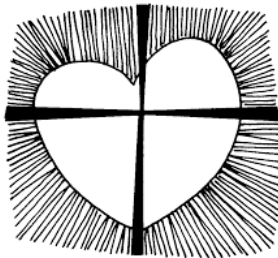
### Sending Song

**Santo Domingo**  
By Riccardo Scivales

### The Sending.

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



Stewardship of Service	This week – May 5, 2024	Next week – May 12, 2024
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Musician	Shlomo Farber	Shlomo Farber
Reader	TBA	TBA
Zoom Host	<b>Joann Noll</b>	<b>Volunteer needed!</b>

*Hymns shown on this bulletin are licensed via Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License number SAS10330*

*All other music used with the artist permission*

## Pray For:

**Pray for the people in Israel, Palestine, and all of the Middle East** as they suffer war, violence, terror, and retribution. Show the world a path to peace and justice.

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

**Pray for peace and justice in Ukraine, Holy Land, and Yemen.**

**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, Admin Assistant Kerry Czuba, the 2024 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

**Pray for the Bethel Youth Drop-In Center Board as they prepare for the Summer 2024 Day Camp.** Send us excellent applicants for Staff and for our new Director, Marie Houk.

**Pray for Shlomo Farber**, that his family and friends in Israel may be safe.

**Pray for our children**, who are in the last stretch of school that they stay focused and finish out the year with a true sense of completion and joy for a job well done.

**Pray for the teachers, school staff, parents, guardians, and grandparents** who teach our children and keep them safe.

### Pray for the following:

- **Mark Sjostrom**, Svea's uncle, as he recovers from cancer treatments and health complications
- **Neil Marshall** (Nash's Portland family) as Neil undergoes treatment for a brain tumor.
- **Faith Moser and her daughters** (mother of Joann Noll) as Faith moves into assisted living.
- **David Gyles** for his improved lung health.
- **Leo Lawrence** for recovery from neuropathy surgery.
- **John Knight and family** as John continues in memory care.
- **Laura Day**, mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- **Chuck Huntley**, brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.
- **Glenn Chase**, in thanks for his continued good health.
- **Jackie Calder**, in thanks for healing and health that allows her to travel and to accomplish loving volunteer work.
- **Marlo Edman** as he adjusts to recent changes in health with diagnoses of A-fib and osteoporosis.
- **Lorraine Griffey** for health, stamina, and joy.
- **Betty Jean Iacono**, sister of Marjorie Strieff, as she heals from recent heart difficulties.
- **Rhonda Pederson**, after a liver cancer diagnosis.
- **Cari Catlow**, for treatment and recovery from a broken leg.

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

**Pray for Gary Morris** who is currently unemployed and looking for employment.

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

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

**Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.**

### **Mark Your Calendars...See what's happening at Bethel this week:**

05/05 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom  
05/05 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom  
05/08 6:00 PM St. John's Fund Team Meeting on Zoom  
05/09 4:30-5:30 PM Happy Hour on Zoom  
05/09 7:00 PM YDIC Board Meeting on Zoom  
05/12 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom  
05/12 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom

\*New Reader Sign-Up Sheet in the back of Church.

## Pentecost Sunday, May 19

You are invited to wear your reds, oranges, and yellows to help ignite the flames of our hearts.



# Send

## Ways to love

Congregations of people everywhere share Jesus' love in all kinds of ways. Offerings are given, food and clothing collected, quilts are made, prayers said, and homes are built.

Circle all the ways your congregation shares Jesus' love.



How else does your congregation share Jesus' love? Draw a picture of it here.

*Jesus, thank you for loving us so we can love too!  
Amen*

## This week

Love a neighbor by surprising them with a plate of home-made cookies!

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# Kids Celebrate

Sixth Sunday of Easter

## gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the sixth Sunday of Easter. All of us get ready for worship in different ways, and our families celebrate Sundays differently. What did you do to get ready for church this morning? What will you do after church?



Draw a heart around everything you did this morning to get ready for worship, and inside the star, draw a picture of something your family usually does together after worship.

# hear & celebrate

## Jesus' new commandment

John 15:9-17

Jesus and his friends, the disciples, did everything together. They ate, played, worked, and cared for others. Jesus was a wonderful teacher, and he taught them many things about God. One day when Jesus was with his friends, he gave them a new commandment. This is what Jesus said.

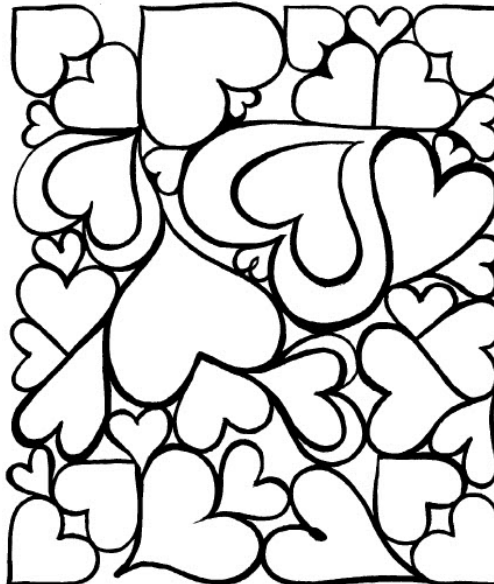
Color in the boxes with hearts, and discover Jesus' new commandment.

♥	L	♥	O	V	♥	E	♥	♥
♥	♥	O	N	♥	E	♥	♥	♥
A	N	♥	O	T	H	♥	E	R
♥	♥	A	♥	♥	♥	S	♥	♥
♥	♥	♥	I	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
H	♥	A	♥	♥	V	E	♥	♥
L	O	♥	♥	V	E	♥	D	♥
♥	♥	♥	Y	♥	O	♥	U	♥

## Hearts the same

We can love because Jesus loves us!

Find and color 12 hearts that are the same.



Choose one thing that your family will do together every Sunday. Maybe you'll make pizza, play games, or take a walk....Enjoy your time with each other.