

# 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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## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Sunday, May 5, 2024

*Pastor Dave Johnson*



### TODAY'S REFLECTION

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

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

# **THE GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

*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**

*"Abide With Me" page 9*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### ▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

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.**

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,

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.**

## 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 10:44-48*

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 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, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

### ▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

*Psalms 98*

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand  
and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

**The Lord has made known his victory;**

**he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;**

**break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn**

**make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

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

*The Second Reading is from 1 John 5:1-6*

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

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

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

*The Holy Gospel according to John 15:9-17*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 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. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. 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. 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. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

▼ **Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

*"How Deep The Father's Love For Us" 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.

## ▲ Prayers of the Church

Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

*A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, you've chosen us to love you and one another, and to bear your love into the world. The world needs you so much! Make us faithful and fruitful, so we help nourish hearts starved for your love.

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

Bless your Church with the powerful presence of your Holy Spirit. Fill it with your love. Nourish it with Word and Sacrament. Through it, let the world see, desire, and dwell in your love forever.

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

Cheer the hearts and strengthen the spirits of all who are persecuted for your Name's sake. Use their witness to cause many to repent and believe in you.

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

Bless the people of this congregation with faith, hope, and charity. Fill us with wisdom and prudence. Through the gift of your Holy Spirit, make us glad to obey your commandments.

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

Bless this beautiful creation with all it needs to flourish. Make us wise stewards of it, especially the creatures entrusted to our care. May everything you have made praise and glorify you!

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

Fill our elected and appointed leaders with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might. Teach them to love justice; to act with mercy toward the poor and hungry in their lands; and to walk humbly before your Father. Grant to all people the blessings of peace and unity on earth.

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

Bless all who protect life, health, and freedom. Grant them wisdom and integrity. Let their labors help create a safe, just world where the innocent may live in peace. Help us to honor their service.

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

Grant your life-giving Spirit to all who cry to you for help, *especially we pray for those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud)*. Grant them wholeness of body and mind; confident hope in your goodness, and the peace which the world cannot give them.

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

Lord Jesus, thank you for choosing, forgiving, and saving the faithful who have gone before us. Grant that in this life, we may bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Gather us into your Kingdom, where those fruits will be perfected, to your glory and to the delight of all the redeemed.

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

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.*

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

April—June Mission Designation  
*Fortune Lake*

▼ **Offering Prayer**

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.  
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**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Come and eat at God's table.

▼ **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**

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.  
**Amen.**

## **THE SENDING**

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

▼ **Closing Hymn**

*"I Love To Tell The Story" 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.**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



# Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 3 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

# How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Words and Music by  
Stuart Townend

$\text{♩} = 54$

## VERSE

D Em D/F# G D/F# D/A A



1. How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all meas - ure that  
(2. Be) - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders. A -  
(3. I) will not boast in an - y-thing: No gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom. But

3 D Em D/F# G D/F# A D



He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure. How  
-shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers. It  
I will boast in Je - sus Christ: His death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why

5 Em D/F# G D/F# Bm A



great the pain of sear - ing loss. The Fa - ther turns His face a - way as  
was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; His  
should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But

7 D Em D/F# G D/F# A



wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo -  
dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin -  
this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran -

## TURNAROUND

9 D G/B D/A D G<sup>2</sup> D.C. al Fine



-ry.  
-ished.  
-som.

2. Be -  
3. I

# I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

## Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

## Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 10:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room

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