

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Ascension of Our Lord

Hymnal Supplement, *Now the Feast and Celebration*

May 12, 2024

10:00 AM

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAREWELL AND GOD'S SPEED

*GATHERING SONG

You Servants of God

ELW 825

*GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

*NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION

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.

2 Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon-or and
glo-ry to Christ for-ev-er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of
God; to make all things new.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

In Christ Alone

Arr. Nickel

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Acts I:I-II

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They 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.”

The reading may be concluded: The Word of the Lord.

The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The reading may be concluded: The Word of the Lord.

The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

*GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

The gospel is announced

The holy gospel according to St. Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord.

The assembly responds: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTION

The Rev. Angela Freeman

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

*HYMN OF THE DAY Lord You Give the Great Commission ELW 579

*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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION**

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A: You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons (*especially*) to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A: Your creation groans under the strain of pollution. Preserve melting glaciers and dwindling forests. Bolster those who work for climate justice and help us all to be good and faithful stewards of your creation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A: Your people seek wisdom, understanding, and peace. Guide all those who govern and inspire them to work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Keep safe first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A: Your children need your loving care. Protect them from all harm. Comfort those in any affliction (*especially*). Support those who grieve and bring solace to those near death. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A: Your Spirit lives within us here. Inspire the work of this congregation and unite us as one. Bless all the mothers in our midst, console those for whom this day is difficult, and gather us all under the care of your loving wings. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

A: Your saints dwell with you in light. Keep us ever thankful for those who have gone before us in faith (*especially*). Inspire us by their witness. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet one another as you are comfortable sharing God's peace.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING SONG

As the offering is brought forward to the altar, the congregation sings.

Refrain *Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

to Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

*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.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

The presiding minister continues.

It is our duty and delight...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

The presider continues with the eucharistic prayer.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever.
 Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

You are invited to either come forward to the altar or remain in your seats today to receive communion. You can decide your own comfort level. Pre-filled elements available at the ushers stand when you came in.

If you come forward, you are invited to stand or kneel at the altar railing. The pastor and assisting ministers will come to you and serve you the sacraments. If you need gluten free, indicate to the pastor.

***LAMB OF GOD**

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza
Congregation or Assistant:

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

As We Gather at the Table
Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW 522
ELW 464

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray.
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.**

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

The presiding minister proclaims God's 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 HYMN** Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

ELW 545

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. Angela Freeman	Senior Pastor
Deacon Marla Wood Kay	Interim Minister of Christian Formation
Eric Richardson	Minister of Music
Rees Roberts	Supply Organist
Lisa Hanson	Assisting Minister
John Menzies	Lector
Camila & Gabriel Valore	Acolyte(s)
John Menzies, Scott Wilkinson	Ushers
Marianne Schmidt	Altar Guild
Lynne & Bill Zeidler	Tech Team
Emerson Emser	Sound

NRSV Scripture, Psalm, Liturgical Music and Hymns from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under Augsburg Fortress Annual License SB136302. **“You Servants of God.”** Public Domain. **“Lord You Give the Great Commission.”** Text © 1978 and music © 1942, Ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. **“As We Gather at the Table.”** Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. **“Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal.”** Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. **“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing.”** Public Domain.

Next week’s readings: First Reading: **Acts 2:1-21**; Psalm: **Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**; Second Reading: **Romans 8:22-27**; Gospel: **John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Carol Rattay in loving memory of Beverly & Meta Olsen and Ann Rattay.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM. SPEAK WITH AN USHER OR PASTOR FOR ASSISTANCE.

CONNECT CARD – There are connect cards in the pew pockets. If you are a guest, have a prayer intention or anything else to share, please fill out a card and drop it in the collection basket. There are also opportunities listed for ways to get involved!

NAME TAGS are available for all worshipers as desired. Thank you for wearing your nametag and helping us build community and fellowship. If you do not see your nametag hanging in the Narthex or you simply need a new one printed, please contact the church office. There are also guest name tags for any guest attending worship.

MOTHER'S DAY TODAY

Today, we celebrate the loving sacrifice of mothers, both biological and spiritual, who nurture and guide us in Your ways. Bless them with joy, strength, and love to continue their selfless devotion. May they feel deeply appreciated and honored not just today, but every day.

GODSPEED TO THE DIDIONS

Today, Bethesda wishes Sharon Didion & her husband the best as they relocate to Valparaiso, Indiana. God goes with you as move and connect to another part of the Body of Christ to which we all belong. Blessings be upon you and your upcoming 50th Wedding Anniversary as well!

SPRING FUNDRAISER WALK IN SALE

May 1 - June 15th at Dean's Greenhouse in Westlake

It's time to think spring! Dean's Greenhouse, 3984 Porter Road, Westlake, will be offering a Walk-in Fundraiser this summer. Shop at Dean's for all your spring and summer gardening supplies; flowers, vegetables, pots, mulch, soil, decorative items. mention Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church at check out, and 30% of your order total will come back to support the Youth Ministries of Bethesda.

WIFI & DIGITAL BULLETIN

Bethesda's Guest Wi-Fi password: BethesdaBay

You can help save a few trees! Worshipers are invited to access Bethesda's worship bulletin and announcements using their smart devices. Do not forget you can also "check in" on your various social media accounts and help tell the story of our shared ministry! Invitations for your friends to share in worship and other activities are always welcome as well!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY GROUP

Monday, May 13, 7:00pm.

The Women's Ministry Group would like to invite the women of the congregation to our next meeting scheduled for Monday, May 13 at 7pm. We will gather in the lounge for fellowship and project planning. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather and learn more about your fellow sisters in Christ at Bethesda.

BEATITUDES EXPLORATION

Sundays beginning May 19th, 11:15 am

Join a small group to explore the Beatitudes, or Jesus's Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), which Luther once said creates an impossible standard though he later found good things to say. The program consists of six sessions which will take place May 19, June 2, June 9, June 16, June 23 and June 30 from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm in the lounge. No session on May 26. Note the changed start date!

Each session lasts one hour and consists of viewing a video segment and discussion. No homework, no quizzes and no attendance taken! The program gathers scholars, activists and theologians, several of whom have written books about the Beatitudes. The content should provoke thought and discussion. Mark & Mary Beth Larsen will facilitate. Please sign up in Narthex indicating whether you will attend in person or by Zoom. If childcare would be helpful, please let the church office know the week before so arrangements can be made.

SIGN PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION

Sunday, May 19, after worship in the fellowship hall

As discussed at the Congregational Annual Meeting and in response to the developed ministry priorities, the Church Council is excited to share the proposed plans for updated signage project! Our hope is to continue to become more known in the community as a presence of Christ's love and compassion and renewed signage can help tell our story. Come for a brief conversation after worship during fellowship time. Images of the project will be available as well as an opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback.

HVAC INSTALLATION

Bethesda Childcare Center will be undergoing some replacement and installation of HVAC Units in classrooms including the fellowship hall, in the coming weeks. Thanks be to God Bethesda's Childcare Center is in a strong financial position in order to support necessary updates and improvements in the classrooms and shared congregational space! For installation purposes, there will be some construction equipment on the property in the coming weeks.

PROJECT ISAIAH 43 REVIEW

Bethesda hosted over 60 guests last Sunday including all of the Synod staff including Bishop Barbins. Thank you to all who helped in preparation for the event, those who attended, those who loaned card tables, and especially thank you to the organizers behind the scenes, Lisa Hanson, Ellen Menzies and Rachel Musser!

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

Our thanks to the individuals who volunteered their time and vocal talents to help lead worship service this past year, most especially the members of the choir. Individuals who would care to sing or play an instrument during the offertory this summer should contact Eric Richardson or Chrissy Morscher via the church office.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

We would like to continue the Bethesda tradition of recognizing all graduates in the display near the welcome desk outside the sanctuary. If you have a high school or college graduate, or a graduate of a vocational or certification program and would like to be featured in the showcase, please email the following information to Deacon Marla at deaconessmarla@gmail.com **no later than May 15:**

- Name
- Where graduating from
- Degree, if applicable
- Future plans
- Any special honors they would like highlighted
- A current photo. 5x7 is preferred. Photo does not have to be a professional photo, and it can be mailed or dropped at church, or emailed. Emailed photos will be printed from church copy machine so will not be photo grade.

The display will begin in late May or early June, so please submit graduate information as soon as possible. Thank you! We hold in prayer all who are in these last days of Spring classes and finals!

CHURCH OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Main Office and Chrissy: info@bethesdaonthebay.org

Pastor Angela: pastor.angela@bethesdaonthebay.org

Deacon Marla: cyf@bethesdaonthebay.org

Church Office hours Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 2:00pm

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Gather weekly on Wednesday at 10:00am for Bible study and discussion about the assigned scripture we hear on the approaching Sunday morning. No expertise needed. Share together in open conversation, prayer and fellowship.

PEACEMAKERS CANCER CARE QUILTERS

The Peacemakers is an outside group that meets at Bethesda Thursdays at 9:00 am, now through May 30, 2024. They quilt and donate their quilts to the Moll Cancer Center. New quilters and sewers are welcome anytime. The sewing technique is straight-seam. They also have projects you can do at home! If you are interested in learning more or joining the group, contact the office or show up on Thursday!

BETHESDA BOOK CLUB

The Bethesda Book Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm in the lounge at church. The next meeting is May 15 and the book discussed will be The Fraud by Zadie Smith. The group is open to anyone who wants to attend. A list of upcoming books is available. Any questions, contact Marcia at Marcia.Starr@oh.rr.com.

CHURCH COUNCIL TEAM CHAIRSPERSONS

Thank you to Bethesda's elected church council members who serve among us and keep our common mission central to our shared ministry. Each Church Council members serves on one of three over-arching Ministry Teams to help care for and oversee the ministry of the congregation. Council members decide each year among themselves who will serve on what team. This year's Teams are listed below along with the chairperson for the Team. Feel free to connect with that Chairperson if you should have any questions or desire to become involved in any aspect of the ministry!

Spiritual Life Team – Laura English, Chairperson; Lisa Hanson, Lynne Zeidler, Alison Gregory

Mission & Ministry Team – Jerry Keil, Chairperson; Scott Pohlkamp, Malena Hanson, Emerson Emser

Finance & Administration Team – Randy Risch, Chairperson, Mark Larsen, Bill Zeidler, Dave Petro

Church Council photos and names of members along with meeting minutes can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office. Meeting Minutes are summarized in the announcements each month. Please see any Church council member or Pastor Angela with any questions or feedback.

