# Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church Fifth Sunday of Easter

Hymnal Supplement, Now the Feast and Celebration

May 18, 2024 10:00AM

\*Please stand as you are willing and able. ELW refers to the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

#### **GATHERING**

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

The assembly gathers in quiet for prayer and meditation.

**PRELUDE** 

Simple Gifts

Arr.: Paul Taylor

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess out sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

Have mercy on us.

We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

\*GATHERING SONG That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright ELW 384

# \*PROCLAMATION & 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.** 

### \*KYRIE





### \*NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION



### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

**ANTHEM** 

Go In The Grace of the Lord

James Barnard

### **WORD**

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

### FIRST READING Acts 11:1-18

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw fourfooted animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The reading may be concluded: Word of God, Word of Life.

*The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

- <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
- <sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.
- <sup>4</sup> Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
- <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,
- <sup>6</sup> who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.
- <sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
- 9 mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
- <sup>10</sup> wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;
- II sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- <sup>12</sup> young men and maidens, old and young together.
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup> The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

#### **SECOND READING**

Revelation 21:1-6

<sup>1</sup>I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

The reading may be concluded: Word of God, Word of Life.

The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



\*GOSPEL John 13:31-35

*The gospel is announced.* The holy gospel according to St. John.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord. The assembly responds: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### \*REFLECTION

The Rev. Angela Freeman

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

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

\*HYMN OF THE DAY Where Charity and Love Prevail ELW 359

#### **BLESSING OF GRADUATES**

We are delighted to honor you as you graduate. We are proud of you! It is our privilege to affirm you as members of this congregation. You have completed an important phase of your lives and you are entering another.

### The graduates stand. The leader addresses the graduates.

I ask you to affirm your commitment to a life of faith in the body of Christ. Graduates, as you celebrate your achievements and prepare for your new endeavors, God goes with you in the new season to be your strength and your guide.

As you make choices about your new endeavors, will you offer your gifts to the world as part of the body of Christ and welcome the support of a family of faith? *Response:* **With God's help, I will.** 

# The assembly stands. The leader addresses the assembly with these or similar words.

People of *Bethesda on the Bay*, do you promise to support these graduates, take an interest in their future, be with them in their celebration and sadness, and welcome them whenever they return to *Bethesda to worship among us?* 

In God's love, we support them.

Do you promise to faithfully pray for these young people, placing their futures into God's loving hands as they make their choices?

In God's love, we pray for them.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially today for the milestones that these graduates have attained. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they know your love in all the experiences they have.

Bless the parents of these students, who have raised their children and nourished them in Christian faith. Give them strength in your holy presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their children, those who are leaving home to go far away, and those staying close by. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

# The leader addresses the graduates and the assembly.

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

### A brief silence.

A: Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places (*local or regional places may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness (*especially*). Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love (*especially Erik, King of Sweden*). Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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.

#### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **OFFERING 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.



### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

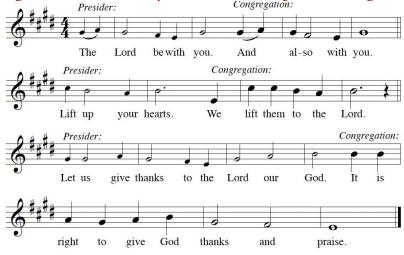
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.

Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

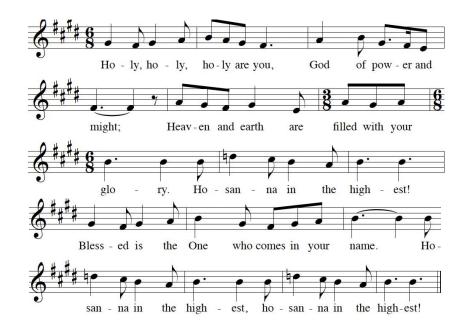


### \*PREFACE

### The presiding minister continues.

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

### \*HOLY

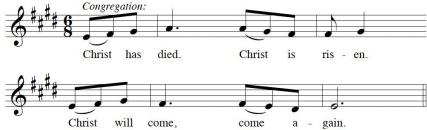


### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### The presider continues with the eucharistic prayer.

Presider: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

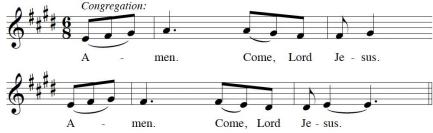
# *The congregation responds to the presider:*



### The presider continues with the eucharistic prayer.

Presider: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

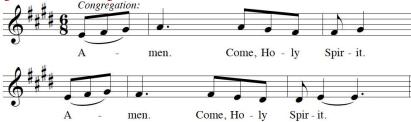
# The congregation responds to the presider:



### The presider continues with the eucharistic prayer.

Presider: Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

# The congregation responds to the presider:



#### \*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.

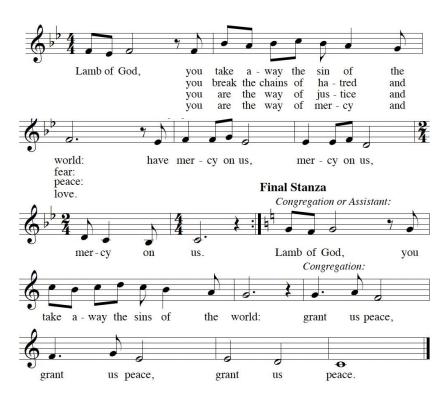
### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

We will either come to the altar or remain in our seats today to receive communion. You can decide your own comfort level. Pre-filled elements available at the ushers stand when you came in. The Pastor can also come to you in your pew. If that is desired, please indicate to the Usher when they come by.

Holy Communion will be served in a continuous fashion at the altar. If you come forward, you are invited to receive bread from the presider in the center aisle. Let Pastor know if you need gluten free bread. The worship assistant will have a tray with small cups of wine. Light colored wine in the center of the trays is nonalcoholic. Place empty cups into the tray with the acolyte before returning to your seat.

### LAMB OF GOD





### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 The Day of Resurrection! ELW 361

\*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE** Ora Pro Nobis F. Liszt

## **Leading Worship Today**

The Rev. Angela Freeman Senior Pastor Eric Richardson Minister of Music Organist Dr. Matt Chiu Laura English **Assisting Minister** John Menzies Lector Tyler Peace, Elizabeth Bryan **Acolytes** Dave Johnson, Tom Kelly, Deb Coleman Ushers Marianne Schmidt Altar Guild Eric & Theresa Peace 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. "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright." Public Domain. "Where Charity and Love Prevail." Text © 1960 World Library Publications. 3708 River Road, Suite 400. Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. www.wlpmusic.com. All rights reserved. "Let Us Break Bread Together." Public Domain. "Come to the Water of Life." Text and music © 1999 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress. "The Day of Resurrection!" Public Domain.

Next week's scripture: First Reading: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm: Psalm 67; Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; Gospel: John 14:23-29.



bethesdaonthebay.org (440) 871-2276 info@bethesdaonthebay.org







#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED** to the Glory of God by Alison Gregory in celebration of Amelia Grace Gregory's 9th birthday.

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

### SCRIPTURE BASED COLORING SHEETS

Coloring sheets, based on the Sunday scripture, are available each week by the usher's stand. You are welcome to pick one up for use during worship or take it home with you for colorful prayer and meditation during the week.

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. Name tags help to build and deepen a sense of community here at Bethesda. Would you like a name tag or replacement name tag? If so, contact <a href="mailto:info@bethesdaonthebay.org">info@bethesdaonthebay.org</a> and we'll make you one!

### 2025 BETHESDA GRADUATES

It's the time of year to celebrate our graduates! If there is a high school or college graduate in your family this year, please email the following information to <a href="mailto:info@bethesdaonthebay.org">info@bethesdaonthebay.org</a>:

- · Name
- · Where graduating from
- · Degree, if applicable
- · Future plans
- · Any special honors they would like highlighted
- · A current photo. (5x7 is preferred but we will use whatever you provide. The photo does not have to be professional, and it can be mailed, dropped at church, or emailed. Please note emailed photos will be printed from church copy machine therefore will not be photo grade.)

### **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 21 and the book discussed will be James by Percial Everett. The group is open to anyone who wants to attend. A list of upcoming books is available. Any questions, contact Marcia at <a href="Marcia.Starr@oh.rr.com">Marcia.Starr@oh.rr.com</a>.

#### LADIES LUNCH

This month the ladies will be having lunch at 11:30 Wed. May 21 at Houlihan's on Detroit, between Canterbury and Columbia. All ladies of Bethesda are welcome. Let Bev Hine know if you can come. 440-812-5448 or bbhine@hotmail.com Mon. May 19.

### **BLESSING BAGS**

Assembly after worship TODAY. Stick around to help assemble the blessing bags. Thank you for all the donations we've collected over the last few weeks! Our goal is to make 50 more bags to distribute, and we collected much of the items needed! Additionally, a \$250 Thrivent Action grant was secured to help with the supplies for this project! If you are a Thrivent member, speak with Pastor Angela so we can potentially gain support for additional outreach ministries that are not budgeted for!

### FELLOWSHIP AFTER WORSHIP

You are invited and encouraged to stay after worship today to enjoy some coffee and fellowship together! Refreshments are served in the fellowship hall which is located in the middle of the building. Thank you to Marianne Schmidt for hosting today!

### **ASCENSION DAY EVENING WORSHIP**

Thursday, May 29 @ 7 pm

Messiah Lutheran Church - 21485 Lorain Rd, Fairview Park

Come worship with your siblings in Christ on Thursday, May 29 @ 7 pm! Together, we will celebrate Jesus ascending to Heaven and the passing of the Holy Spirit from Jesus to his earliest followers. This annual 7 pm special worship service takes place on the 40th day after the Resurrection. Special music and Holy Communion will be shared.

### SERVICE PROJECT AT LMM

Save the date: Saturday, June 14, 9:00 am - noon

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry serves the community in a variety of ways in the heart of Cleveland. Our friends at Good Soil Lutheran have invited us to join them for a service project day. Save the date and watch for more information soon! The project will be outdoors and will likely include some light painting and cleaning work.

### **SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC!**

We would love to encourage you to add to our Summer Services by lending your talents. Sing, or play a solo, or sing or play a duet! See the signup sheet on the bulletin board by the Music Office. Matt has offered to accompany you, and Eric is always available to assist. Thank you for offering special music to enhance our summer worship experiences!

### **SUMMER PICK-UP CHOIR**

Everyone is welcome to make a joyful noise and have fun singing together! Summer is a good time to give it a try too! Mark your calendars and come to join the Summer Choir on June 15, July 13, or August 10. Come to the 9:30 a.m. rehearsal on any or all of those dates. No audition. Easy Peazy.

#### **FAVORITE HYMN OR PIECE OF MUSIC**

This summer, we will have some fun with music and are inviting suggestions! Have a favorite hymn? Let us know and we'll work on incorporating as many as we can during worship this summer. Do you have a favorite piece of music that you would like to hear on the organ or piano? Matt is willing to take your requests too! Please see the insert to submit your suggestions and requests to be enjoyed this summer.

### TREE DEDICATION

After the beautiful hundred-year-old oak tree got damaged in last summer's tornado's, Bethesda's members generously gave toward the planting of a new tree. Gratefully, we were able to plant three, two maples and an elm tree! Prayers that they grow to be strong and provide lots of shade and shelter for years to come! Tree dedication will happen June 1 after worship. Plan to attend if you are interested!

#### **VBS – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

June 23 – 27 9am – noon at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Avon Lake CELC has invited Bethesda to participate in Vacation Bible School Participants must be 3 years old AND potty trained or completed one year of preschool. Children who have completed sixth grade and above may sign up to be helpers. More information can be found at ChristLutheranAvonLake.org or contact the Bethesda church office.

### CHURCH OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Main Office and Chrissy: info@bethesdaonthebay.org Pastor Angela: <a href="mailto:pastor.angela@bethesdaonthebay.org">pastor.angela@bethesdaonthebay.org</a>

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

### 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!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Bethesda recycles? Paper and cardboard can be placed in the recycling cans in the main office or in the conference room. Cans, plastic and glass bottles can be recycled in the main office or kitchen. Thank you for your efforts to be more environmentally friendly!

### NOTARY IN THE HOUSE

Our office administrator, Chrissy, is a registered notary. If you need something notarized, please contact her to set up an appointment.

### WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS?

We are going to once again sing the congregation's favorite hymns over the Summer. Kindly submit your short list (no more than five, please) to Eric Richardson's mailbox using the form below by June 8. He will pair them up with the Gospel lesson of the day.

| MY FAVORITE HYMNS                                  | Your Name:    |
|--|---------------|
| Number of Hymn                                     | Name of Hymn: |
| Number of Hymn                                     | Name of Hymn: |
| Number of Hymn                                     | Name of Hymn: |
| Number of Hymn                                     | Name of Hymn: |
| Number of Hymn                                     | Name of Hymn: |
| Do you have something you would like Matt to Play? |               |
| Name/composer:                                     |               |
| Name/composer:                                     |               |
| Name/composer:                                     |               |