

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope</i> MAY 18, 2025 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON
--

**Prelude**      *“Spirit Song”*

THE GATHERING

**Welcome and Announcements**

*(Please stand.)*

**Gathering Song**      *“I Come with Joy”*

*I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.*

*Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world*

*the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.*

### **Greeting**

- P Christ is Risen!  
C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
C **And also with you.**

### **Hymn of Praise**      *“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”*

*Ye watchers and ye holy ones,  
bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,  
raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"  
Cry out, dominions, pryncedoms, pow'rs,  
archangels, virtues, angel choirs:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*O friends, in gladness let us sing,  
supernal anthems echoing:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

### **Prayer of the Day**

- P 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.  
C **Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## THE WORD

### **Children's Sermon**

## The First Reading Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “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. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 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.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 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. 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; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 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.’ 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?” 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.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 148

A Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

C **Praise the Lord, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

A Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

C **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

A Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they were created,  
C **who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

A Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

C **fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

- A mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
C **wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**
- A sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
C **young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**
- A Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
C **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

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. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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;

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.”

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.” 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.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand.)*

## Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks”

*Refrain*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;*

*Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

*Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen. Refrain*

**Gospel John 13:31-35**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

*(Please be seated.)*

**Sermon** **Rev. Elaina Salmon**

*(Please stand.)*

**Hymn of the Day** *“See, I Make All Things New”*

*Come, let us go to a bright and holy city,  
a place where we can dream, where we are free.  
Come, let us go from this world of trial and sorrow.  
Oh, lead us to a home of lasting peace.*

*Refrain  
And God said, “I am with you. Truly I am with you.  
See, I make all things new. I am with you.  
Truly I am with you. See I make all things new.*

*Come, let us go to a place with no more dying,  
no mourning and no pain and no more fear.  
Come, let us go to a land with no more crying,  
where God will gently wipe away our tears. Refrain*

*Come, let us go to a land where all the people  
can freely share the wisdom of their God.  
Come, let us go to an Earth where all the nations  
can walk together in the light of love. Refrain*

## Prayers of the People

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

*(a moment of 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.

C **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. Hear us, O God.

C **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.

C **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. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Abide with those who are pushed to the margins. Help us to see the diversity of your people as beautiful and keep us mindful that all are created in the image of God. Then help us love as you commanded in a way that overcomes every barrier and divide. For at the end of time, you will gather all people--from every nation, tribe, and language--around your throne in worship. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A 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.

C **Amen.**

## Sharing of Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*(Please be seated.)*

# THE MEAL

## Invitation to the Offering

P Jesus has given us the commandment to love one another. Let us with gladness offer to God the gifts of our labor, life, and love.

## Offering

**Special Music**      *“Come Find Forgiveness and Love”*

*(Please stand.)*

**Offertory Song**      *“Here is Bread”*

*Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.*

*Refrain  
In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.  
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.*

*Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
We'll proclaim till he comes Jesus crucified. Refrain*

## Offertory Prayer

A Risen One,  
you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.  
Come among us again,  
breathe your life into us,  
and enliven us with this meal,  
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

C **Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P** O God most mighty, O God most merciful,  
O God our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.  
When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child;  
When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.  
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,  
and the psalmists cried out for healing,  
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.  
He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression,  
he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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, and 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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

**C** Amen.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

**C** Amen.

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

**C** Amen.

**P** O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.  
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.  
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.  
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,  
O God our strength and our song,  
you show us a vision of a tree of life  
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.  
Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son,  
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,



life in you, now and forever.  
C Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

P Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,  
C **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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### Invitation to Communion

P Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

*(Please be seated.)*

### Communion Distribution

### Communion Songs

## LAMB OF GOD

*Mass of a Joyful Heart*  
Steve Angrisano

Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.

sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music © 1997, Steve Angrisano. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

*“The Gift of Love”*

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain,  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be giv’n by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide ev’ry deed;  
By this we worship, and are freed.*

*(Please stand.)*

**Communion Blessing**

P     May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C     **Amen.**

**Prayer After Communion**

A     Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
sing of your glory,  
and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.

C     **Amen.**

SENDING

**Blessing**

P     The triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always.

C     **Amen.**

## **Sending Song “How Great Thou Art”**

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;*

### *Refrain*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain*

*But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
he bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain*

*When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!” Refrain*

## **Dismissal**

P     Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.  
C     **Thanks be to God!**

## *PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY*

MariLynn Bergmark	Pat Johnson	Brilee Robbins
Sharon Bolerjack	Caty K	Ken Rose
Hazel Brant	Zeplyn Killmer	Frank Roy
Scott Browne	Lenny Kobilca	Ben Sabourin
Evelyn Cahill	Carrie Koon	Pr. Elaina Salmon
Anthony Campagna	Rev. John Lang	George Scheel
Tom Casey	Nancy Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Gary Cobbett	Sue Lucheon	Tim Schroeder
Sidney Colburn	Scott Lundgren	Virginia Schroeder
Jim Connelly	Dede Machowski	Josh Shaw
Beau Dowling	Ashley Maestre	Sharon Skopec
Maggie Driscoll	Hanna Mau	Gene Sobba
Finley Engnell	Jim McKeever	Gary Sperka
Elwood Faulhaber	Ruth Ann Miller	Burt Swartz
Judy Faulhaber	Omni Rook Myers	Dom Thielmann
Abby Galvin	Linda Nelson	Kayley Koter Taddeo
David Gilchrist	Jane Nilles	Chuck Vlcek
Chriss Hassel	Dave Nommenson	Cindy Vorel
Mike Hoffman	Charlotte Pohlman	Rick Vorel
Bob Hoster	Misty Pounder	Kyle Williams
Monica Johnson		

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Damen McDermott,  
Chad Peters, Mitch Pohlman and all others serving our country and their families.

For those we name in our hearts, and for those who have not yet found Jesus.

### Acknowledgements

Prayer of the Day, Offertory Prayer, Prayer after Communion, Blessing, Liturgies and Dismissal from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43914

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America and used by permission. All rights reserved.

*Spirit Song* by John Wimber

*I Come with Joy* Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

*Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858-1945 Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal* © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks* Text and Music: Donald Fishel; arr. Betty Pulkingham ©1973Word of God Music

*See, I Make All Things New* by Ken Canedo ©2019, Ken Canedo. Published by OCP

*Come Find Forgiveness and Love* by Don Besig

*Here Is Bread* Text & Music by Graham Kendrick © 1991 Make Way Music

*Lamb of God Mass of a Joyful Heart* Music © 1997, by Steve Angrisano, Published by OCP Publications.

*The Gift of Love* Text & Music Hal H. Hopson © 1972 Hope Publishing Company

*How Great Thou Art* Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989. Text © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved. (ASCAP)

Hymns reprinted with permission from OneLicense.net Annual License A-70879 and CCLI License 4049530

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SERVING TODAY** — Sandy Doebert

**MUSICIANS** — Sandy Doebert, Ruth Gerike, Sue Gray and Shawn Salmon

**TECH CREW** — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

### **CEMETERY CLEAN-UP: HELPING HANDS NEEDED**

The Cemetery clean-up will be on May 20th and 22nd starting at 6p. We'll need volunteers to bring their own gloves, rakes, and any other tools they think would be helpful.

### **MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE**

We'll be holding our annual Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 26 at 11am at Bethany's Cemetery (McCarthy and First Street). Please bring a chair and join us!

**A DONATION TO THE OPEN PANTRY** was given in honor of Judith Sandberg's birthday, by Deanna Freehauf.

**DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY** were given by Gloria Abboud, Lois Miller and Maria Hanzlik.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** is available to support Bethany Lutheran Church. It is fast, easy and secure. You can schedule a weekly or monthly contribution that is automatically debited from your savings or checking account. Make a one-time donation to a special fund; even direct the gift in honor or in memory of someone. Visit our website: [bethanylemont.org](http://bethanylemont.org) and click the Donate button on the homepage.