

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope

MAY 10, 2026

PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

Prelude *“I Will Be Here”*

Welcome and Announcements

Confirmation Project Presentations

THE GATHERING

(Please stand.)

A Litany for Mother’s Day

P To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you

C **To those who lost a child this year—we mourn with you**

P To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains—we appreciate you

C **To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you**

P To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment—we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don’t mean to make this harder than it is.

C **To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms; to grandmas, aunts, and godmothers—we need you**

P To those who have warm and close relationships with your children—we celebrate with you

C **To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children—we sit with you**

P To those who lost their mothers—we grieve with you

C **To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother—we acknowledge your experience**

P To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood—we are better for having you in our midst

C **To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year—we grieve and rejoice with you**

P And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—we anticipate with you

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.

Gathering Song

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!*

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise *“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”*

*Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through 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 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

“Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66

A Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

C **Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

A For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

C **You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

A You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

C **I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

A those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

C **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

A Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

C **I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

A If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

C **but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

A Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your

hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation *“Alleluia, Alleluia Give Thanks”*

*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.*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.*

Gospel John 14:15-21

Jesus said to the disciples: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

Sermon

Rev. Elaina Salmon

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day *“Loving Spirit”*

*Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.*

*Like a mother you enfold me,
hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.*

*Like a father you protect me,
teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.*

*Friend and lover, in your closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.*

Prayers of the People

A Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

(a moment of silence)

A God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ’s righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill. We pray especially for ... Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
C **Amen.**

Sharing of Christ's 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 God, the divine giver, gifts us with life and breath and all that is. In gratitude, let us offer our gifts in return for the goodness and grace of God in Christ.

Offering

Special Music “*In A Simple Way I Love You*”

(Please stand.)

Offering 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 Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,
- 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 new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

“Lamb of God”

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.

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“Children of the Heavenly Father!”

*Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.*

*God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.*

*Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.*

Though he giveth or he taketh,

*God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.*

(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 Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,
C **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
bless you now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Sending Song “*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*”

*“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”*

*“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.*

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

*“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”*

Dismissal

P Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.

C **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Ed Anderson	Monica Johnson	Charlotte Pohlman
MariLynn Bergmark	Pat Johnson	Misty Pounder
Sue Blender	Jessica Kean	Brilee Robbins
Sharon Bolerjack	Zepplyn Killmer	Ken Rose
Hazel Brant	Lenny Kobilca	Frank Roy
Scott Browne	Carrie Koon	Ben Sabourin
Evelyn Cahill	Rev. John Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Tom Casey	Nancy Lang	Tim Schroeder
Gary Cobbett	Sue Lucheon	Virginia Schroeder
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Abby Galvin	Jim McKeever	Dom Thielmann
David Gilchrist	Ruth Ann Miller	Rick Vorel
Terri Hacker	Omni Rook Myers	Kyle Williams
Charlie Hagedorn	Linda Nelson	George Woollet
Mike Hoffman	Dave Nommenson	

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Joe Falese

MUSICIANS — Sandy Doebert and Sue Gray

ACOLYTES — AJ Guglielmucci and Lakin Guglielmucci

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

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MUSIC AVAILABLE

If a hymn number is listed with a song, you can find the music in the red hymnal in your pew. We have packets available at the back table that include the songs for the day.

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