

Bethany Lutheran Church

4644 Clark Avenue

Long Beach, CA 90808

www.bethanylutheran.org

(562) 421-4711

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

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MAY 22, 2022

8:00 and 9:30 AM

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

“God Himself Is Present”

LSB 907



1 God Him - self is pres - ent: Let us now a - dore Him
2 God Him - self is pres - ent: Hear the harps re - sound - ing;
3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,



And with awe ap - pear be - fore Him. God is in His
See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing. “Ho - ly, ho - ly,
Trust - ing on - ly in Your mer - it. Like the ho - ly



tem - ple; All with - in keep si - lence; Hum - bly kneel in
ho - ly!” Hear the hymn as - cend - ing, Songs of saints and
an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore You, May I cease - less -



deep - est rev - 'rence. He a - lone On His throne
an - gels blend - ing. Bow Your ear To us here:
ly a - dore You. Let Your will Ev - er still



Is our God and Sav - ior; Praise His name for - ev - er!
Hear, O Christ, the prais - es That Your Church now rais - es.
Rule Your Church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Based on Isaiah 42)*

Leader: You have been set free from sin and are now servants of God.

People: **For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: *(Based on Galatians 5)*

Leader: I tell you, my brothers and sisters, you have been set free in Christ!
I ask you, my brothers and sisters,
have you used your freedom to indulge in the sinful nature?
We know this ought not be, rather we ought to serve others in love.

People: **Most merciful God,
I confess that I am in bondage to sin and cannot free myself.
Though Christ has indeed set me free
I have returned to captivity over and over again
in words, deeds and actions, sinning against You, O Lord.
I confess that I have not served others in love,
let alone loving and serving You with my whole heart.
For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.
Forgive me, renew me, lead me, and set me free
to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways,
to the glory of Your holy name.
Amen.**

Leader: Jesus Christ has set you free, by His captivity to the cross
you are released from sin's guilt and Satan's accusations:
Live in His freedom, freed to serve, freed to love,
freed to live in, for and through Him
through Who your sins are forgiven.
Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE: ***"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"***
~ Dan Forrest

Bethany Choir

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Acts 20:17-35*

From Miletus Paul sent messengers to the city of Ephesus and called the spiritual leaders of the church to meet with him in Miletus. When they were with him, he said to them, “You know how I spent all my time with you from the first day I arrived in the province of Asia. I humbly served the Lord, often with tears in my eyes. I served the Lord during the difficult times I went through when the Jews plotted against me. I didn’t avoid telling you anything that would help you, and I didn’t avoid teaching you publicly and from house to house. I warned Jews and Greeks to change the way they think and act and to believe in our Lord Jesus.

“I am determined to go to Jerusalem now. I don’t know what will happen to me there. However, the Holy Spirit warns me in every city that imprisonment and suffering are waiting for me. But I don’t place any value on my own life. I want to finish the race I’m running. I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus—the mission of testifying to the Good News of God’s kindness.

“Now I know that none of you whom I told about God’s kingdom will see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am not responsible for the spiritual death of any of you. I didn’t avoid telling you the whole plan of God. Pay attention to yourselves and to the entire flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as bishops to be shepherds for God’s church which He acquired with His own blood. I know that fierce wolves will come to you after I leave, and they won’t spare the flock. Some of your own men will come forward and say things that distort the truth. They will do this to lure disciples into following them. So be alert! Remember that I instructed each of you for three years, day and night, at times with tears in my eyes.

“I am now entrusting you to God and to His message that tells how kind He is. That message can help you grow and can give you the inheritance that is shared by all of God’s holy people.

“I never wanted anyone’s silver, gold, or clothes. You know that I worked to support myself and those who were with me. I have given you an example that by working hard like this we should help the weak. We should remember the words that the Lord Jesus said, ‘Giving gifts is more satisfying than receiving them.’ ” – GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *“There is a Balm in Gilead”* Bethany Choir
 ~ David von Kampen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

<u>8:00</u>	<i>“My Best Friend”</i> ~ Yancy	Preschool
<u>9:30</u>	<i>“Siyahamba”</i> ~ edited by Doreen Rao	Troubadour Choir

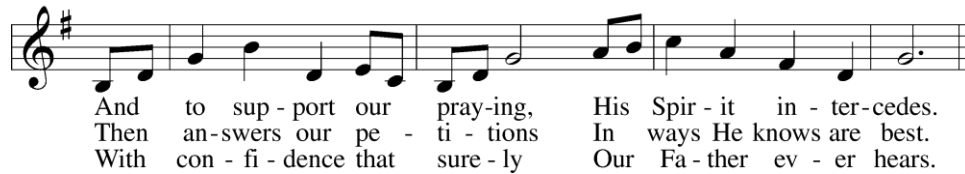
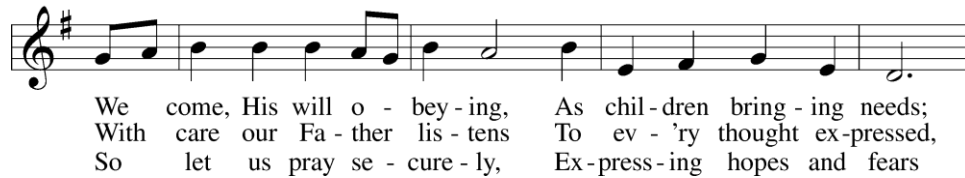
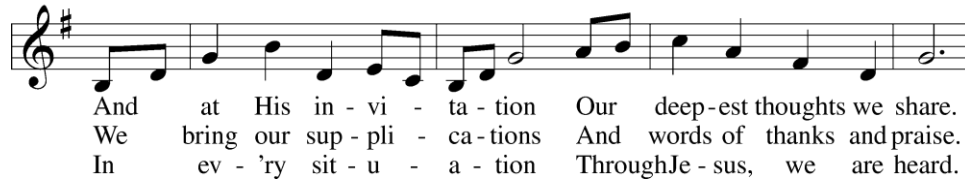
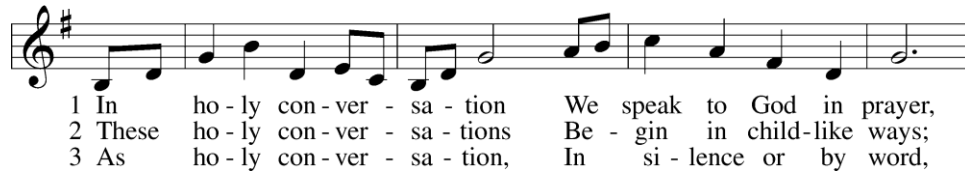
THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 16:23-33

When that day comes, you won't ask me any more questions. I can guarantee this truth: If you ask the Father for anything in my name, he will give it to you. So far you haven't asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive so that you can be completely happy.

“I have used examples to illustrate these things. The time is coming when I won't use examples to speak to you. Rather, I will speak to you about the Father in plain words. When that day comes, you will ask for what you want in my name. I'm telling you that I won't have to ask the Father for you. The Father loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I left the Father and came into the world. Again, as I've said, I'm going to leave the world and go back to the Father.”

His disciples said, “Now You're talking in plain words and not using examples. Now we know that You know everything. You don't need to wait for questions to be asked. Because of this, we believe that You have come from God.”

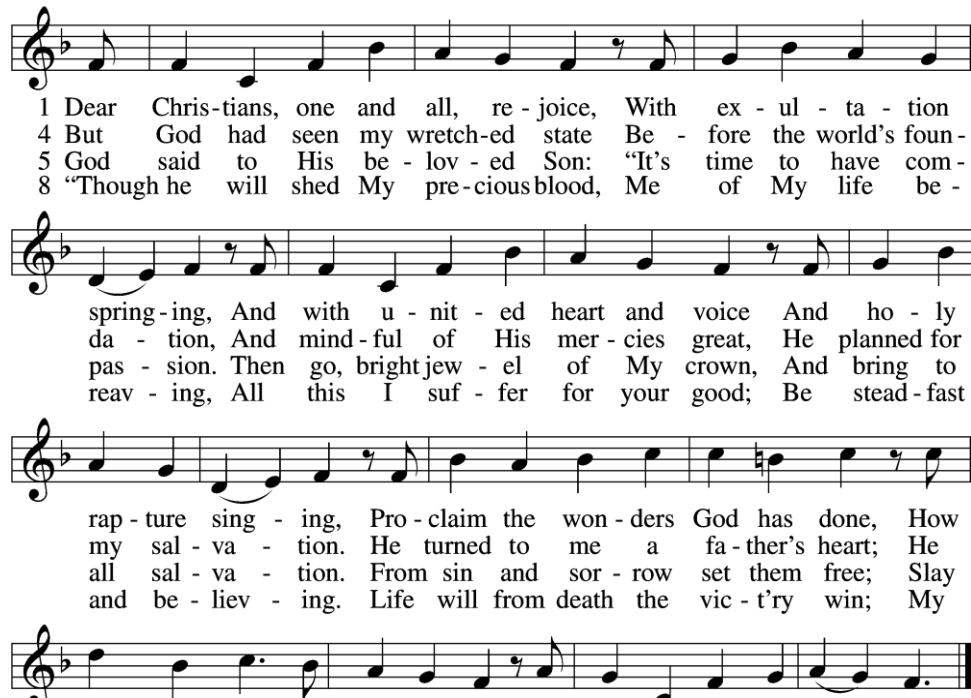
Jesus replied to them, “Now you believe. The time is coming, and is already here, when all of you will be scattered. Each of you will go your own way and leave me all alone. Yet, I'm not all alone, because the Father is with me. I've told you this so that my peace will be with you. In the world you'll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world.” – GW®



SERMON: *“Set Free”*

Text: Acts 20:17-35

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” LSB 556



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion
4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be - fore the world's foun -
5 God said to His be - lov - ed Son: "It's time to have com -
8 "Though he will shed My pre-cious blood, Me of My life be -
spring-ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for
pas - sion. Then go, bright jew - el of My crown, And bring to
reav - ing, All this I suf - fer for your good; Be stead - fast
rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He
all sal - va - tion. From sin and sor - row set them free; Slay
and be - liev - ing. Life will from death the vic - t'ry win; My
His right arm the vic-t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.
bit - ter death for them that they May live with You for-ev - er."
in - no - cence shall bear your sin, And you are blest for-ev - er.

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maralee at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

+ *Holy Communion* +

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, *Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are alcohol free.

The wafers next to the Christ candle side are gluten free;

for those with dietary restrictions, please take a gluten free wafer.

For those wishing to use a self-contained communion chalice, let an usher know.

In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING: *(Based on Galatians 5:1 & 13)*

Leader: You have been set free in Christ.
Do not use your freedom to indulge in the sinful nature;
rather serve one another in love.

CLOSING HYMN: *“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”* LSB 717



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the
2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traf - fic
3 O Spir - it, whom the Fa - ther sent To spread a - broad the
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, Our peo - ple shield in



rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep Its
runs a - main By moun - tain pass or val - ley low; Wher -
fir - ma - ment; O Wind of heav - en, by Thy might Save
dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
ev - er, Lord, Thy peo - ple go, Pro - tect them by Thy
all who dare the ea - gle's flight, And keep them by Thy
tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall



cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
guard - ing hand From ev - 'ry per - il on the land.
watch - ful care From ev - 'ry per - il in the air.
rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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“God Himself Is Present” LSB 907

Text: Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697-1769, abr.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760-1835 and John Miller, 1756-90, alt.; sts. 1 & 3. Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650-80, alt; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941*.
Text and Music: Public Domain

“In Holy Conversation” LSB 772

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946. Tune: Swedish; Bred Dina Vida Vingar.
Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission. Tune: Public domain;
setting © 1995 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved.
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“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” LSB 556

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800-87, alt.
Tune: *Etlich Cristlich liden*, Wittenberg, 1524; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941*.
Text and Tune: Public domain

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save” LSB 717

Text: William Whiting, 1825-78, alt. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-76. Text and music: Public domain.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR TODAY’S SERMON OR PREVIOUS SERMONS AGAIN...

You can hear them as podcasts on our website www.bethanylutheran.org.

HOUSEHOLD HUDDLE



One of the key characteristics of Households of Faith is that they spend time with one another. The Biblical idea of households is far beyond just the nuclear family that may share the same four walls. In the pages of Scripture households included multiple generations, different vocations, and many permutations. A Household Huddle is a time of directed activity that will foster spiritual habits, invite conversations and be open to welcoming others. We would like to encourage you to engage in a household huddle at least once a week.

The pattern for a Household Huddle includes the following:

- **SHARE** your highs and lows.
- **READ** a Bible verse or a story.
- **TALK** together about how the reading impacted you, share what you think God might be teaching you and ask some questions about the reading.
- **PRAY** for one another.
- **BLESS** one another in words and actions.

It will take time to get into a pattern or rhythm with the members of your household so we suggest scheduling the same time and day each week when you begin. To get you started we will provide a basic outline for your household huddle.

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 22nd:

READ this week: *Acts 20:17-35*

TALK about the readings:

- *What does this text reveal to you about God?*
- *Looking at the text from the lens of being “Set Free” what is someone being set free off/from?*
- *Can you relate to needing to be “set free” from something similar as what you identified above?*
- *What do you believe God might be teaching you through this text?*
- *How will you that lesson change the way you live this week?*

PRAY for one another: *Thinking about what was shared in your household huddle, how can you pray for one another today?*

BLESS one another in words and actions: *Have someone read the blessing from the Sunday service on page 9 of this bulletin, to your household.*

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BETHANY BULLET?

The ***Bethany Bullet*** is a weekly capsule of worship highlights, and important information about events taking place at BLC. If you would like to receive the ***Bethany Bullet*** please email Aimee Coleman (acoleman@bethanylutheran.org) with your name and email address.

The purpose of the ***Bethany Bullet*** is to bolster you in faith, build you up in the key Biblical themes shared the previous Sunday in worship, to bring to mind the important issues on Bethany's plate, and to broaden your awareness of opportunities of service to your Lord, your church, and your community. Tell a friend about the ***Bethany Bullet***!



NEW MEMBER INFORMATION:

As we are working through portions of St. Luke's book of Acts, we hear over and over again the words, “and the Lord added to their number.”

That same Lord works the same today as He did back then. We in turn, like the first disciples, give Him all thanks and praise for all those individuals and families He continues to add to our “number.” We are thrilled to welcome and grow with all those the Lord adds to our Bethany Household. If you are new(er) to Bethany and are interested in congregational membership please email Pastor Kevin Kritzer at: kkritzer@bethanylutheran.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Thursday from 7:30 AM – 12:00 PM.

Closed Fridays.

Well done, servants of the Lord!

Bethany Lutheran School announces the retirement of two of our beloved teachers.



*Ms. Kim Imes
44 years teaching,
29 at Bethany.*



*Ms. Cheryl Stigskal
25 years teaching,
18 at Bethany.*

Please join us for a celebration
hosted by the Board of Schools
on Sunday, June 12 after the 8:00 service

Congratulatory cards and video greetings
can be sent to Dr. Mary Fink by June 6:
mfink@bethanylutheran.org
5100 Arbor Rd.
Long Beach, CA 90808
Attn: Retirement

We are also collecting cards in the Narthex



WE GIVE HIM BUT HIS OWN

At Bethany we know that “our stuff is not our stuff!” All that we have, all that we are, is a gift from Him. We also know that giving is a spirit-given compulsion. For Jesus Christ, in whose likeness we are being transformed daily, is the ultimate giver. Your gifts fund ministry that give people Jesus. His words, His promises, His presence, His gifts, His comfort, His strength are given through the gifts you are now giving Him. We thank and honor you for these gifts, because they thank and honor Him!

There are multiple ways to give to Bethany Lutheran Church including:

Giving Online, Text to Give, Online Bill-Pay, US Mail, Offering Basket

Please see the GIVING link on Bethany’s website for more information on how to make your offering. **If you need further assistance, contact our Financial Administrator at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org**

Welcome to Bethany Lutheran Church!

If you have a prayer request...

or desire information about:

a particular Ministry,

Membership,

or Online Giving

Scan the QR code below.



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