

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

May 18, 2025 - Setting 12

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Karina Roth, Musical Director

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one another  
as I have  
loved you.

John 13:34

*Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!*

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## Introduction— Fifth Sunday of Easter

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

Prelude

Karina Roth

## Welcome & Announcements

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✝ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.  
**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn:** *Christ is Living* **ACS 934**

### **Greeting**

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** **ACS page 31**

**Song of Praise** **ACS page 31**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**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.**

### **Children's Time**

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting coins for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger. *Find that loose change and hand it to a kiddo!*



**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. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> "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 four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup> But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three

times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.<sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> 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; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'<sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.<sup>16</sup> 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.'<sup>17</sup> 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?"<sup>18</sup> 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."

Word of God, Word of Life. **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;

**<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**<sup>10</sup> wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup> 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

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**ACS page 33**

## **Gospel:**

**John 13:31-35**

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 of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Calvin Konop**

**Hymn of the Day**      *God, We Gather as Your People*      **ACS 1038**  
*(Verses 1, 3 and 4)*

**Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of God's People**

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)*

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.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love (especially . . .). Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **Offering**

**Bethlehem Choir**

### **Offering Prayer**

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. Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

**ACS page 36**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

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

### **Words of Institution**

**ACS page 37**

### **The 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. All are welcome!

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. All persons, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion.*



## Communion Music

*Be Known to Us*

ACS page 40

*Anointing Fall on Me*

ACS 1013

## Post Communion Blessing

### Prayer After Communion

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. Amen.

### Blessing

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. Amen.

### Sending Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

ELW 631

### Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Postlude

Karina Roth



Please join us on Tuesday May 20 in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm to make Solar Light Kits for Ukraine! All are welcome!



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
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**This Week at Bethlehem:**

- Sun May 18      8:40 AM Choir practice  
                   10:00 AM Worship Service  
   with Sunday School  
                   2:00 PM Care Center
- Mon May 19    11:00 AM Staff Meeting  
                   3:30 PM Girl Scouts  
                   6:30 PM Church Council
- Tues May 20    6:00 PM Make Solar  
   Lights for Ukraine
- Wed May 21    12:30 PM Text Study
- Thurs May 22    8:00 AM Bible Study  
                   9:00 AM Quilting
- Sun May 25      8:40 AM Choir practice  
                   10:00 AM Worship Service
- Mon May 26      - - - - Memorial Day  
   Office is closed
- Tues May 27    11:00 AM Staff Meeting  
                   Denise returns to work

**The May Mission of the Month** Our May Mission of the Month will be about creation care. We will be donating to the **Eco-Faith Network**. Their mission is to *live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation*. The EcoFaith Network of NEMN Synod is made up of congregations, individuals, and other partners across the Northeastern Minnesota Synod and beyond. We can designate our funds to be used for grants to churches to create pollinator gardens, or start community gardens, or plant trees, or many other conservation projects. **Member Challenge:** Join us on Tuesday May 20th at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall to make **Solar Light Kits for Ukraine**. All are welcome.

**Traveler Cards and Local Grocery Cards** are available from BLC to members of the community that need help. Please contact the office.

**Coffee An':** *Have you taken a turn serving for our fellowship time on Sundays?* Please sign up to bring some treats to share.

**Wednesday Text Study:** Join us at 12:30 pm on Wednesdays for a study of the scripture lessons.

**Men's Bible Study:** Every Thursday morning, beginning at 8:00 to 9:15 am. Contact Mike Chmelik for information, 218-387-1790

**Free Bibles:** Help yourself to a large print English Standard Version Bible, on the counter in the Narthex.

**Quilters are seeking more helpers!** Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. No experience necessary. You are invited to the fun!

**TODAY:**

**LAST DAY of SUNDAY SCHOOL**



**Thank you, Teachers!**

On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code or through automatic transfer.  
 (Forms are available online & the office.)



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