



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Setting 8
Sunday, May 5, 2024
Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding



Belonging to Christ. Sharing Christ on the North Shore and Beyond!

Introduction

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.



Prelude

Karina Roth

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism



Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water -- the local bodies of water, the rain that nourishes animals and plants, the water for drinking and bathing. We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water!

We praise you, O God, for our water stories -- a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy, a river that can heal leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water!

We remember the waters of Jesus -- baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee, drinking from Jacob's Well, washing the disciples' feet, on the cross thirsting for us.

We praise you, O God, for this font. Breathe into this water, wash away our sin, and birth anew into your peace and joy.

We praise you, O God, for water:

We praise you, O God, for water!

O God, you are the Ocean, the source of all life. O God, you are the River, saving us from death. O God, you are the Stream, restoring our community's strength.

We praise you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, today, tomorrow, forever.

Amen, and Amen: **Amen, and Amen!**

Gathering Hymn:

In Christ There Is No East or West *ELW 650*

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

ELW page 184

Canticle of Praise

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Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time



First Lesson

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

**⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

**⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to
judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Lesson

1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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



Gospel Acclamation



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Gospel

John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to St. John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will

last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day



Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love ELW 708

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 Intercession



Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits

of your love in our care for one another. *We pray especially for Laurie, Gwen, Shae, Carol Ann, Jody, Joan, Bruce, Lynn, Kati, Paulina, & Kim.* We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation, that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



Offering

Bethlehem Choir

Yonder Come Day by Paul John Rudoi

Offering Prayer



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.**

First Communion

Today our community of faith celebrates with Landon Boen & Brennan Sandstrom who join in sharing the meal of Holy Communion.

Let us welcome our friends to Holy Communion.

Welcome to Jesus' table. We rejoice with you and thank God for you! Enjoy this meal that strengthens us to live as Jesus did.

Great Thanksgiving

ELW page 190

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.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW page 190

Words of Institution

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

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

Lamb of God

ELW page 191

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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.**

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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 836

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Karina Roth

Prayer Requests:

Your prayers are requested for healing: Laurie Spry, Gwen Lenz, Shae Lindholm, Carol Ann, Jody Daugherty, Joan Bieber, Elsa Sorenson, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Kati Kristenson Stieler, Lynn Schulte, Kim Schulte, Paulina Backstrom, Vera Finn, Barbara Erickson, Char Anderson, Rhonda Schulte, Emily Ullhorn, Les Donek, Carly Hawkinson-Sohm, Jill Pederson, Kristi (Speck) Perales, Emi Heikkinen, Hank Ferland, Betty Jones, Sharon Bloomquist, and Stacey Schulte. *If you have any updates on these prayer requests, or any new requests, please call the office at 218-387-2227. Thank you.*

This week we lift up these member families and friends: Janet Elmquist; Kathy Kippley; Anne & Chris Hegg; Kristi Humphrey, Jed, Allie & Carter Smith; and Kali Blomberg & Ashtyn & Brooklyn Nelson. May God walk with these faithful friends in their Easter journey.

Our sincere sympathies to the family of Delores Saethre who passed away this week at the North Shore Health Care Center. A memorial service is being planned for Monday July 1, 2024. (Delores' birthday) More information to come.

Thank you, Dave Prinsen! Dave came in this week and repaired the laminate on the Narthex counters. *We really appreciate your time and talents, Dave!*



Our confirmation students have chosen **Arrowhead Animal Rescue** as the May Mission of the Month. This is a Cook County nonprofit dedicated to helping animals in need. In 2021 the previous shelter, which was in the rec park, was removed to make way for the marina improvements. Since then volunteers have been caring for animals in their homes, but many have had to be transported to other shelters. The need for food and vet care continues, but the AAR has just announced plans to purchase one of the portable classrooms that Great Expectations School will no longer need when their building project is complete. Funds will be needed to make it a suitable facility and get it moved to its new location in the Business Park. Thank you students for the compassion you are showing for homeless and needy animals in our community. Let's show that we care for God's creatures great and small. Please note on your special gift "Animal Rescue" or "Mission of the Month". Thank you for supporting this need in our community.



Member Challenge



The Confirmation class will be hosting a **"Bingo Night"** in May as an additional fund raiser for **Arrowhead Animal Rescue**. Prizes will be baked goods that they have made. The plans are being made now. Keep watching for info.

Sunday School has ended for the school year. Thank you to all the kids who participated and to our dedicated Sunday School Teachers, Kris Hedstrom and Carrie Jansen.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Mon May 6 8:00 AM AP Testing
Tues May 7 8:00 AM AP Testing
Wed May 8 12:30 PM Text Study
5:30 PM Taco meal
6:00 PM Worship
6:00 PM Confirmation
Thurs. May 9 8:00 AM Bible Study
9:00 AM Quilting
**11:00 AM Seniors lunch
with the Quilters**
2:00 PM Esther Circle
Sat. May 11 8:00 AM Bread Baking
Sun. May 12 **Mother's Day**
NO Choir practice
10:00 AM Worship

Pastor Calvin will be on Vacation for Ashley's college graduation from Thursday May 9 - Monday May 13. **Pastor Marion Rova** will be our guest preacher next Sunday.

High School Seniors are invited to lunch with the Quilters on Thurs. May 2 at 11-12:15. **Quilt Sunday is May 19th.**

Bread Making: Sat. May 11, starting at 8:00 am, All are welcome to join Sue Hennessy and make Raisin Rye Bread. Bread will be given out on Sun. May 12, Mother's Day, following the service.

GWOH Work Day at Wilderness Canoe Base May 18th. Deadline to sign up: **TODAY May 5.** Sign up on clipboard in Narthex.

Traveler Cards are available from BLC to members of the community that need to travel out-of-town for medical appointments. Contact the office.

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

Quilters are seeking more helpers, especially anyone that can make quilt tops! Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. No experience necessary. Work with the group or at home, whatever works best for you! *All of the quilts on display in the Narthex are always for sale.*

Summertime is Church Camp time! See the posters on the Narthex counter. Scholarships are available. Forms are on the counter and on the Youth Bulletin board.

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

Choir rehearsals: Sundays at 8:40 am. The choir generally sings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Prayer Chain Warriors: These warriors consist of members (and friends) at Bethlehem who respond to prayer requests through a phone tree network and are pledged to confidentiality. To join or make a request, contact Pastor Calvin, Laura Popkes (218-370-0721), or Denise in the office. (218.387.2227)

Christ In Our Home Devotionals are in the narthex and entryway by the offices.

Sign Up to Help with Sunday Services: There are blue clipboards in the Narthex and Kitchen to sign up with Sunday morning help & coffee. All are qualified and help is much appreciated.

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Live stream link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5rNIGnTve1X5xkhViv4sxA/livehttps://>

On-line giving is encouraged using this QR

Code or through automatic transfer.

(Forms are available online & the office.)

