

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2 May 2021

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares His life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at His table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

Today the Church remembers Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, d. 373.

+ GATHERING +

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

- P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C. Amen.
- P. Rejoicing in the resurrection, let us seek God's forgiveness, that dying to sin, we may walk in newness of life.
- Silence is kept for reflection.*
- P. Loving God,
C. we fear, we doubt, we do not trust You; we do not love our neighbors as ourselves; we have failed to recognize You in the poor and needy; we sin against you in thought, word, and deed. We pray for Your mercy, forgiveness, and grace. We hope in the gift of Your Spirit and we rejoice in the resurrection promise of Jesus Christ, our living Savior. Amen.
- P. God, Who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. May you be strengthened daily with the power to walk in God's light and love.
C. Amen.

GREETING

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P. The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast of Victory for Our God

Pastor:



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Congregation:



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

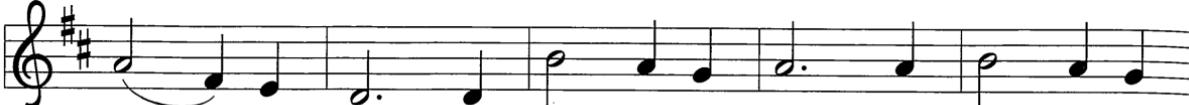


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from Whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in His resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26–40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.)²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:25–31

My praise is of Him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For kingship belongs to the LORD,

Who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, shall kneel before Him.

³⁰My soul shall live for Him; my descendants shall serve Him;

Their descendants shall serve the LORD,

they shall be known as the LORD’s forever.

³¹They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn

the saving deed that He has done.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7–21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, Whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and His love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent His Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in

God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because He first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God Whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from Him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. John 15:1–8

On the night of His arrest, Jesus taught His disciples about the relationship they would have with Him. Those who abide in His word and love would bear fruit, for apart from Him, they could do nothing.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in Me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit He prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in Me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in Me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become My disciples.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

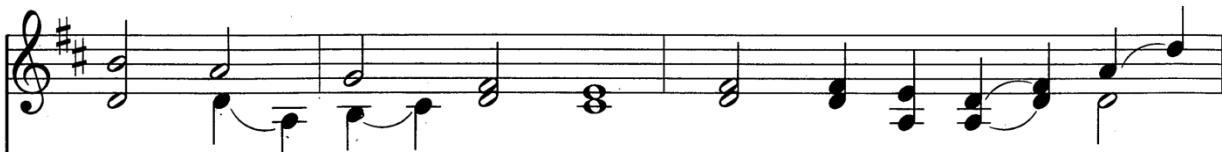
C. Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Blessed Spring

1. O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
 2. Through sum-mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
 3. When au - tum cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
 4. As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
 5. Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in -
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our
 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter



one to be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 fus - ing rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 Christ will move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 souls take wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 thus re - vive and join us to Your Tree of Life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 THE PEOPLE

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the Church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of all faithfulness, You abide in Your Church and Your Church abides in You. Cleanse us by Your word and give Yourself to the whole Church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depend on the earth for life Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of Your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Comfort with Your merciful presence those who are distanced from family and friends and all who are lonely or distressed. We pray especially for Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Bill and Karen Pohlen, Bill Ningen, Carol, Sylvia and Jim, Norma, and Brad. We pray also for those struggling with the virus and for all those grieving the death of a loved one. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of Your Spirit, especially Athanasius Bishop of Alexandria, whom we remember today. With them, may our hearts live forever in Your keeping. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

We entrust all our prayers to You, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

He Is Arisen, Glorious Word

He is a - ris - en! Glo-rious Word! Now rec - on-ciled is God, my
Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen. My Je - sus rose tri -
um-phant-ly, And Sa-tan's ar - rows bro-ken lie, De-stroyed hell's
fierc - est weap - on. Oh, hear, what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing
glo-rious, Life is giv - ing. He was dead, but now is liv - - ing!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.
C Day by day You shower us with blessings. As You raised us to new life in Christ,
give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise You and to respond to those in
need through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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MEAL

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- 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 God thanks and praise.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Holy, living and loving God ... gave His life for the world.

C. Amen.

P. In the night in ... the Lord's death until He comes.

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. Breathe Your Spirit, ... both now and forever.

C. Amen.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P. The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection You send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish Your people. Send us forth as witnesses of Your Son's resurrection, that we may show Your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

C. Amen

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

P. May the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord bring you all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing Glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther Joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; Van-quished is the foe.
Un - to God the Sav - ior Thank-ful hearts we bring;

Christ with-out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
Un - to God the Spir - it Bow we and a - dore,

Who, if we be faith - ful, Can our hope de-stroy?
On our way re - joic - ing Now and ev - er-more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; As we for-ward move,

Hear-ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

DISMISSAL

- P. Christ is Risen!
C. He is Risen indeed!
- P. Go in peace and share the good news.
C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God Presiding: Pastor Munter
Organist: Lou Knutson Reader: Linda Bruns
Camera: Josh Sumption Projection: James Kamrath/Kendon Knutson
Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason and Jerome Bruns

How to reach us:

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Bethel email: bethel@bethelofporter.com
Bethel web page: www.bethelofporter.com



Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson
Shirlee Gabbert, Bill and Karen Pohlen
Bill Ningen, Carol Moon, Sylvia & Jim Pridal
Brad Danielson, Norma Dovre

The friends and family of Bob Briggs.

April 25, 2021

General: \$1,059.50 (\$679.50 received through eGiving)
Savings: \$50.00 in memory of Chris Syltie for Organ. \$50.00 in memory of Reenie Esping for Organ.

		Year:	2021		
	Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 125,474.84	*Includes all Bethel and Parish related expenses		
	Monthly revenue required to meet budget:	\$ 10,456.24			

Year to Date Actual Revenue and Budgeted Expenses Comparison-

This report is based on budgeted expenses divided evenly for each month of the calendar year. Actual expenses per month vary greatly. This analysis is to be used as a guideline, and not a full representation of the full financial health of Bethel Lutheran Church.

This report now includes revenues received from Hemne Luterhan Church as they are applied to all expenses related to the Bethel-Hemnes Joint Parish.

	Total Revenue for Month	Year to Date Revenue	Year to Date Budgeted Expense	Year to Date Difference: shortfalls shown as negative numbers	Cash Reserves Expended	Cash Reserves Repaid	Reserves Repaid Notes
January	\$7,250.77	\$7,250.77	\$10,456.24	-\$3,205.47			
February	\$8,238.97	\$15,489.74	\$20,912.47	-\$5,422.73	-\$2,000.00		
March	\$17,004.00	\$32,493.74	\$31,368.71	\$1,125.03			
April	\$8,253.00	\$40,746.74	\$41,824.95	-\$1,078.21			