

Sunday, May 15, 2022 Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (507-962-3270)

Pastor Nita Parker (507-360-7582) nitaalmjeld.parker@gmail.com

Worship Leaders:

Music – Glenda McGaffee

Lay Reader – Heather Erickson

Ushers: Jenna & Brandon Boeve, Doug & Lois Boeve

Brianna & Mitchell Leuthold

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

P: Let us prayO Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many gifts – a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the quilts we have made to you.

C: We dedicate these quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each item is sent, making it more than just a piece of material, making each quilt an expression of love.

P: Almighty God it is your will to bring comfort and help to the distressed. Bless these quilts wherever they may be used, that they may provide warmth and security to those who have experienced tragedy or who have no other shelter. May all who receive these quilts also experience the covering of your love and forgiveness, may they also encounter your grace and peace and so learn of the joy of life in Christ.

C: May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.

P: There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life – how you can use something as small as a quilt to radiate your love from us to the world.

C: May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them.

P: Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you with all of our being; draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours.

C: Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people.

ALL: Amen

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #367 "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

- 1.) **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!**
- 2.) **Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings;
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife. "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 3.) **Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above
that we conquer through your triumph; grant grace sufficient for life's day
that by our lives we truly say; "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 4.) **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!**

GREETING

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.**

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.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"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. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The 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. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If 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?" ¹⁸When 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."

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²young men and maidens, old and young together.

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴The 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

¹I 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. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And 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; ⁴he 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."

⁵And 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." ⁶Then 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 from the spring of the water of life."

R: Word of God, Word of Life C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION PG. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: Gospel of our Lord C: Thanks be to God

CHILDREN MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #376 "Thine Is the Glory"

1.) Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won! Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

2.) Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom; let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liv-eth; death hath lost its sting!

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

3.) No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, god from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. **AMEN**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: God, in your mercy **C:** hear our prayer

PEACE **P:** The peace of Christ be with you always. **C:** And also with you,

OFFERING #186 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Living God,

C: you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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 our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung) pg. 207

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

PRAYERS after COMMUNION

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more.

Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

QUIZ BOWL

Question: Sunday, May 8, 2022

Who was the one person helped founding 3 churches?

Question: Sunday, May 15, 2022

Name of the houses in Hills that was used a parsonages?



BENEDICTION

BLESSING

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #389 "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

- 1.) Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2.) Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.
- 3.) In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4.) Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5.) Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Randy Beyer, Sam McGaffee & Larry Parker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRIENDSHIP DAYS

Friendship Days **June 11th and 12th**. We have great plans started for Friendship Days service in the park on Sunday, June 12th, including **Dan LaRock** and **Angie Johnson** leading a praise team for the music! The speaker for the day will be **Jason Martens** and there will be other fun things coming up. Please plan to join us for the fun, for the coffee, juice and cookies. We will need some ushers, we are looking to see about someone leading the youth/children's choir, and it will be broadcast on the radio station. Service time will be at 9:30am!



Where? Bethlehem Lutheran Church

When? July 10-14, 2022

What Time? 5:30 am. - 8:30 pm.

**** For more information, contact Brianna Leuthold @
brianna.leuthold@gmail.com or visit Bethlehem website.
==VBS Registration forms are available in the narthex. ==**

DID YOU USE AN ACTIVITY BAG TODAY?

When you use an activity bag, please do not hang it back on hook.
Leave it in the back pew so it can be refilled. Thank you!

QUILTS are available to purchase, contact Peggy Goettsch or Jan Solberg.
Cost: \$35.00