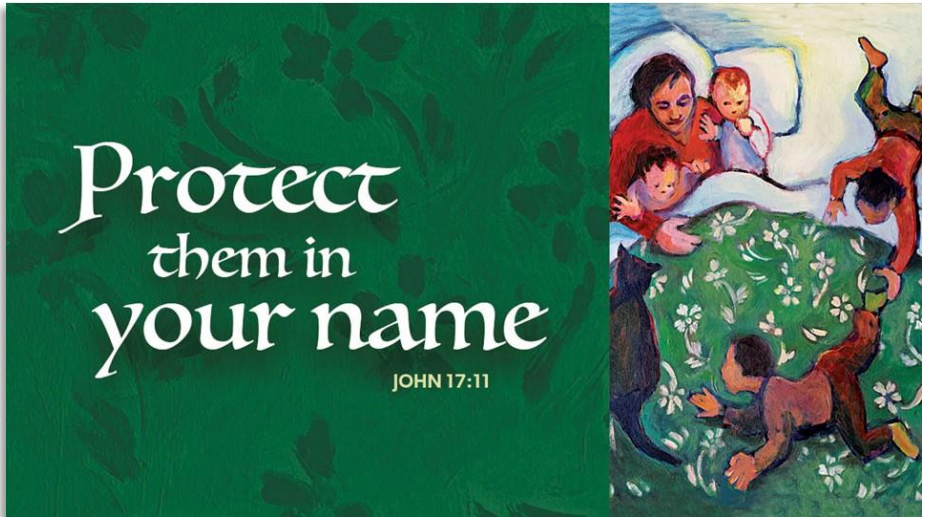




SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 12, 2024

9:30 AM



Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Avenue SW
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-761-1543

Email: bethelgf.church@gmail.com
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A congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.

As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.

INTRODUCTION

The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

W&P 126 Sing Out Earth and Sky [1,5]

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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

Dakota Road Kyrie Eleison

R. Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.

Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all. For this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! R.

2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor. That we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! R.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Dakota Road - Praise To You

R: Praise to you, O Great Creator, Maker of the land and sky.

Praise to you, O Living Water, hope and breath of ev'ry life.

*1. We are lost and we are longing, wand'ring in the wilderness,
Searching for your holy presence and the reason we exist. R*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious and glorious God,
you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BETHEL HANDBELL CHOIR

FIRST READING: ACTS 1:15-17, 21-26

In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment

comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 5:9-13

God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Dakota Road Alleluia

R: Alleluia, alleluia, I am the light of the world. Alleluia, alleluia, I am the light of the world.

P: Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, those who follow me will have the light of life. R.

The holy gospel according to John the seventeenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 17:6-19

In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.

[Jesus prayed:] "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that

everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Jim Carlson, LPA

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 798 The Summons [1,2,4,5]

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 THE CHURCH

God of grace. Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Bethel Men's Quartet

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Dakota Road DR 223 All Thanks To You

*R: All thanks to you, O Love and Light. For all the blessings of the night.
2. Within the earth dark soils surround; here life takes root and circles
'round. R.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

WORLD HUNGER PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord our God.

**Like a mother hen shielding her chicks,
you nurture and protect us.**

We praise you for your care: blessed be God forever!

**Gather all the hungry and homeless, O loving God,
under the warmth of your wings, and so give life to the world,
that your name be praised now and forever. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Dakota Road LH 136 Holy, Holy, Holy

*Holy, holy, holy tender, gentle God. Heaven and earth of full of
You. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the
one who comes in Your name.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

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 Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.

LAMB OF GOD

Dakota Road DR 235

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

*Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us and
grant us your peace, Lamb of God, Lamb of God, Lamb of God.*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

BOB 41 Come To The Table [2x]

BOB 236 We Remember You [2x]

W&P 139 The Trumpets Sound, The Angels Sing

W&P 156 What Have We To Offer

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.**

BENEDICTION

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

ELW 855 *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

And all God's children said: **Amen.**

SERVING TODAY

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Accompanist | Connie Titcomb, piano; |
| Lay Assistant | Tamy Scholten |
| Usher | Chris Gleason |
| Tech | Gabe Smith |
| Projection | Warren Johnson |
| Children's Church | Julia Elkin and Tyler Grosenick |
| Hospitality | Bethel Lutheran Church |
| Counters | Pam Dougherty and Chris Gleason |

Flowers are given by The Pepos Family in memory and celebration of all moms, grandmothers, and godmothers. In memory of Cheri Schmidt Sandy's mom and Esther Schmidt Sandy's godmother.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate the **Seventh Sunday of Easter.**

Happy Mother's Day to all the beautiful women in our lives who make the world a better place.

We welcome and thank **Jim Carlson, LPA** presiding in worship this morning. Jim has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

We lift up **ELCA World Hunger** and receive an additional offering in the wicker baskets.

Thank you to **The Bethel Handbell Choir led by Sharon Mueller** for performing in worship this morning.

After worship today we continue our **Adult Forum** on the second season of The Chosen.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 5/14

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

Friday 5/17

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 5/19

- Worship service led by Dave Scholten, LPA in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- Adult Forum The Chosen Season 2 in the Fellowship Hall following worship

Tuesday 5/21

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Friday 5/24

- Bethel office is closed.



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