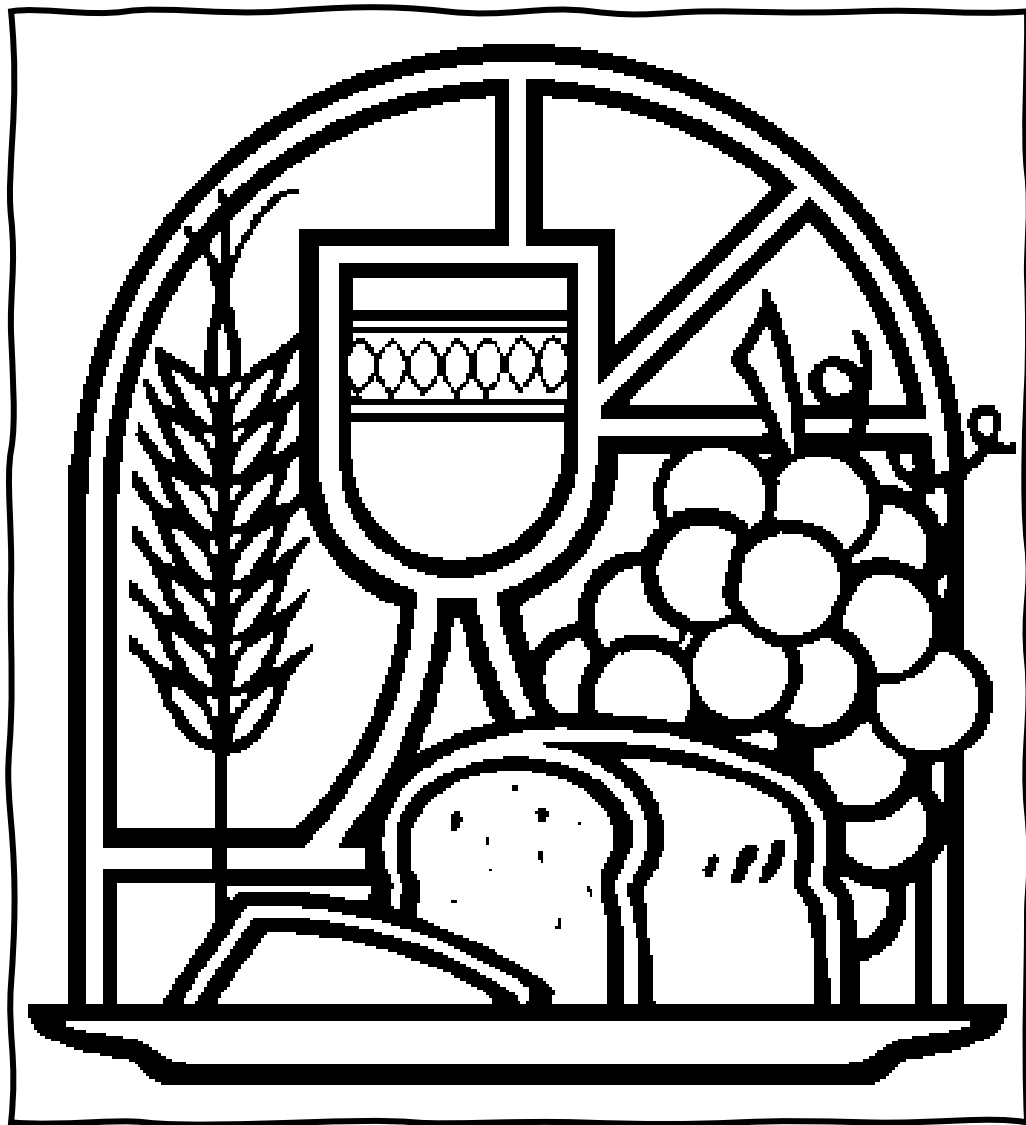


**BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (U.S.A.)**
... a welcoming community.



BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3rd, 2026

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

The Call to Worship (*from* Psalm 99)

One: The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!

All: The LORD sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

One: The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

All: Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is the LORD!

* Hymn # 16

“O That I Had a Thousand Voices”

*1. O that I had a thousand voices
to praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
would then proclaim in grateful songs
to all, wherever I might be
what great things God has done for me!*

*2. Let every power in me implanted,
arise, keep silence now not more;
put forth the strength that God has granted!
Your noblest work is to adore!
O soul and body, join to raise
with heartfelt joy our Maker's praise!*

*3. You forest leaves so green and tender
that dance for joy in summer air;
you meadow grasses, bright and slender;
you flowers so fragrant and so fair;*

*you live to show God's praise alone.
Join me to make God's glory known!*

*4. All creatures that have breath and motion,
that throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
come, share with me my heart's devotion;
help me to sing God's praises high!
My utmost powers can never quite
declare the wonders of God's might!*

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession (Unison)

You speak, O God, and the oceans tremble. You breathe, and the leaves shudder and the trees of the forest bow to your majesty. God our Creator, we come today as your baptized children confessing our sins. Christ calls us to follow; but we disobey his commandments. Evidence of your goodness surrounds us, but we ignore your gracious ways. Have mercy upon us, we pray, and through your love, teach us to change. Amen.

* Congregational Response #551 "Lord, Have Mercy"

*Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

* Assurance of Pardon

* Congregational Response # 582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

*1. Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*2. World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

Children's Moment
Anthem

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Readings

Psalm 111:7-10	<i>(Praise for God's Wonderful Works)</i>	Old Testament, p. 532
Matthew 7:24-27	<i>(Hearers and Doers)</i>	New Testament, p. 7
Proverbs 1:1-7	<i>(For Learning About Wisdom)</i>	Old Testament, p. 551

Sermon "The Beginning of Wisdom" Rev. Beth McCrary

*Affirmation of Faith -- from "*A Brief Statement of Faith*"

"We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the broken-hearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen."

* Hymn # 450 "*Be Thou My Vision*"

*1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

***3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.***

***4. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.***

Call to Offering

Offertory

* The Doxology – Hymn # 606 – *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn # 513 *“This Is the Feast of Victory”*

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. (Refrain)***

***2. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his. (Refrain)***

***3. Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation. (Refrain)***

***4. Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to
God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (Refrain)***

***5. For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign. Alleluia! (Refrain)***

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation and The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The pastor continues the prayer....)

One: And as our Savior Christ taught us, we pray:

All: 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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

* Prayer after Communion (Unison)

Gracious God, from east and west, from north and south, you have gathered us at your table, called us your beloved, and fed us from your body. Transform us to be your body in the world, and strengthen us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you and our neighbors with great joy. Amen.

* Hymn # 453 *"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"*

***1. Open your ears, O faithful people;
open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood;
God has come to you.***

(Refrain)

*God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!*

***2. They who have ears to hear the message,
they who have ears, now let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear God's word. (Refrain)***

* Charge and Benediction

* Response # 243 "Be Not Afraid"

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia! (Repeat)

* Postlude

.

WEEKLY CALENDAR: May 3rd – May 10th

(* *Temporary Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - Noon*)

- **Sunday, May 3rd**
 - 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
 - 11:00 a.m. – Worship (S)
 - **12 Noon – Covered Dish Lunch (FH)**
 - **12:15 p.m. – Christian Education Team Meeting (L)**
- **Monday, May 4th**
 - 10-12 noon – Bethel Arts Ministry
 - 10-11:00 a.m. – Tai Chi (FH)
 - 7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts Meeting (FH)
- **Tuesday, May 5th**
 - 11:00 a.m. – Fiber Arts
 - 1-4 p.m. – Vocal Lessons (S)
 - 5-7 p.m. – Girl Scouts
- **Wednesday, May 6th**
 - 5:45 p.m. –Choir Practice
 - 7:00 p.m. –Bell Practice
- **Thursday, May 7th**
 - **10-11:00 a.m. – Book Club**
 - 5:00 p.m. – Tai Chi (FH)
- **Friday, May 8th**
- **Saturday, May 9th**
 - 10-11:30 a.m. – Tai Chi (FH)
- **Sunday, May 10th**
 - 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
 - 11:00 a.m. – Worship (S)

**Childcare for infants and pre-school children
is offered from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the nursery.
The Quiet Room is available during worship.**

OUR PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for: Travis Brown (*recovery from surgery*); Pat Hale (*walking problems, NHC HealthCare, Oak Ridge*); Steve Jacks (*stroke, home from the hospital*); John Carter (*fluid removed from lungs, home*); Gilbert (*stroke recovery at home, Dianne Griffith's brother-in-law*); Lisa Engleking (*knee repair surgery*); Karen Leitnaker (*knee surgery recovery*); Pam (*foot and ankle surgery ongoing recovery, Linda Brown's friend*); Marilyn [Gaffin] Zellmer (*leukemia*); Julie Barber (*hip woes*); John (*Susan Holton's father*); Sharon Martin (*Elaine Steele's sister-in-law*); prayers for those with economic worries, housing struggles, health concerns, and for those living in the midst of war.

Gerald & Sandra Augustus (*brother-in-law & sister of Brenda Bunch*); Don and Una Coffman (*Sycamore Trace*); Rickey Gallaher (*Adam Gallaher's father*); Linda Gerth; Marge Hettrick (*palliative care*); Nancy Landers; Jeanette McElhinney; Jill McMaster; Anneke Oonk; Earl Price (*Becky Price's husband*); Randy Vickers, Laura Walker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hands Of Mercy Food Pantry Collection

For the month of **May**, we will be collecting **Canned Meat** (*tuna, chicken, Spam*) to support the Hands of Mercy (H.O.M.E.) food pantry. (All non-perishable food items are always gratefully accepted!)

Covered Dish Lunch Today!

Everyone is invited to join us for a covered dish lunch today immediately following worship. Please join us!

FOR ON-LINE DONATIONS TO BETHEL: THANK YOU!



SCAN TO DONATE

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“O That I Had a Thousand Voices”

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1704; trans. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.

Music: Attr. Johan b. König, 1738; *Harmonischer Liederschatz*, 1738

Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text / Music: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile, 2008

Music: Paul M. Vasile, 2008

Text: Adapt. and Music © 2008 Paul M. Vasile

“Be Thou My Vision”

Text: Irish poem, trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.

Music: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927

Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

“This Is the Feast of Victory”

Text and Music: Daniel Charles Damon, 1993

Text and Music © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

“Open Your Eyes, O Faithful People”

Text: Willard F. Jabusch, 1966; rev. 1982

Music: Hasidic melody; arr. Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2006

Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch (Published by OCP)

Music Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

“Be Not Afraid”

Text: Taizé Community, 1998

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1998

Text and Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Public Domain

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE
#A718125 All Rights Reserved.**