

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 16, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "Christ is Arisen, Alleluia"

LSB 466



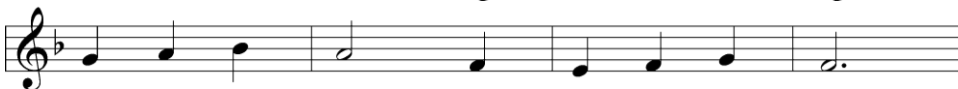
1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear!
4 "Go spread the news: He's not in the grave;
5 Christ has a - ris - en; He sets us free;



Re - joice and praise Him, al - le - lu - ia.
You look for Je - sus who is not here.
He has a - ris - en this world to save.
Al - le - lu - ia, to Him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare;
Je - sus' re - deem - ing la - bors are done;
Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there."
E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won."
He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

Refrain



Let us sing praise to Him with end - less joy;



Death's fear - ful sting He has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

CALL TO WORSHIP: (based on I Corinthians 1:2)

L: You who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ have been sanctified in Christ and called to be holy.

P: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: (based on I Corinthians 8:6 and 6:11)

L: No one should seek their own good, but the good of others,

P: Yet Lord, I confess that I have not loved You with my whole heart; and I have not loved my neighbors as myself. In my thoughts, words and deeds I have often sought my own “good” regardless of the harm it has done others. I am by nature sinfully turned in on myself and unclean. I deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, give me a heart like Your own and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

L: You have been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God! So as a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

LSB 821

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the

scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the

tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.
tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.

Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -
Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der

like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of
like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of

ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Jeremiah 17:5-8*

"This is what the Lord says:

Cursed is the person who trusts humans,
who makes flesh and blood his strength
and whose heart turns away from the Lord.
He will be like a bush in the wilderness.
He will not see when something good comes.
He will live in the dry places in the desert,
in a salty land where no one can live.

Blessed is the person who trusts the Lord.
The Lord will be his confidence.
He will be like a tree that is planted by water.
It will send its roots down to a stream.
It will not be afraid in the heat of summer.
Its leaves will turn green.
It will not be anxious during droughts.
It will not stop producing fruit.— GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

“Open Thou My Eyes”
~John Rutter

Bethany Choir

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 15:15-20

In addition, we are obviously witnesses who lied about God because we testified that He brought Christ back to life. But if it's true that the dead don't come back to life, then God didn't bring Christ back to life. Certainly, if the dead don't come back to life, then Christ hasn't come back to life either. If Christ hasn't come back to life, your faith is worthless and sin still has you in its power. Then those who have died as believers in Christ no longer exist. If Christ is our hope in this life only, we deserve more pity than any other people.

But now Christ has come back from the dead. He is the very first person of those who have died to come back to life.— GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

“Praise His Holy Name”
~Keith Hampton

Bethany Choir

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 6:17-26*

Jesus came down from the mountain with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of His disciples and many other people were there. They had come from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. They wanted to hear Him and be cured of their diseases. Those who were tormented by evil spirits were cured. The entire crowd was trying to touch Him because power was coming from Him and curing all of them.

Jesus looked at His disciples and said,

“Blessed are those who are poor.

God’s kingdom is theirs.

Blessed are those who are hungry.

They will be satisfied.

Blessed are those who are crying.

They will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you, avoid you,

insult you, and slander you

because you are committed to the Son of Man.

Rejoice then, and be very happy!

You have a great reward in heaven.

That’s the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But how horrible it will be for those who are rich.

They have had their comfort.

How horrible it will be for those who are well-fed.

They will be hungry.

How horrible it will be for those who are laughing.

They will mourn and cry.

How horrible it will be for you

when everyone says nice things about you.

That’s the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.— GW®

SERMON HYMN: “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

LSB 394



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



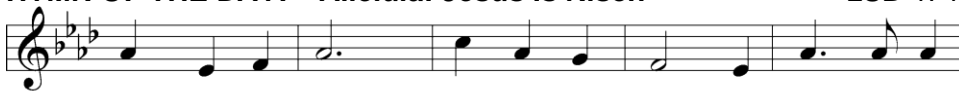
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

SERMON: “We’re about Him and His”

1 Corinthians 15:15-20

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

LSB 474



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
4 Weep-ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound-ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen-dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be
ru - sa-lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch-



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

L: There is on God the Father, from whom all things came; and there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom we live. (*1 Cor. 8:6*) We join Christians around the world confessing our faith in this one true God in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

THE APOSTLES' CREED (**catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**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.**

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

PRAYER OF THANKS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.**

† Holy Communion †

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, *Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood and You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: (1 Corinthians 10:16)

- L:** God's Word assures us that:
- P:** **The cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks is a participation in the blood of Christ. The bread that we break is a participation in the body of Christ.**
- L:** For on the night in which He was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus Christ, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are **alcohol free**. The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free**.*

At our 9:30 am service, we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: "We Know That Christ is Raised"

LSB 603



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in His sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.



Em-braced by death, He broke its fear - ful hold;
Re - born, we share with Him an Eas - ter life
The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the Church of God.



And our de - spair He turned to blaz - ing joy.
As liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.



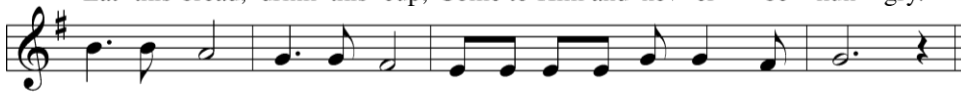
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia!

“Eat This Bread”

LSB 638



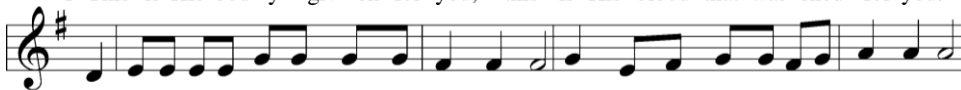
Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to Him and nev-er be hun - gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in Him and you will not thirst.



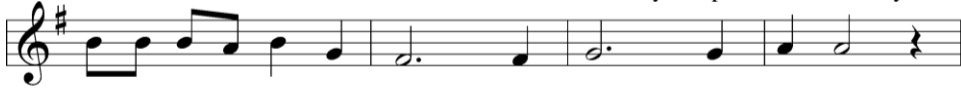
1 This is His bod - y giv - en for you; this is His blood that was shed for you.



2 As of-ten as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death un-til He comes a-gain.



3 Eat His flesh and drink His blood, and Christ will raise you up on the Last Day.



4 An - y - one who eats this bread will live for - ev - er.



5 If we be-lieve and eat this bread, we will have e - ter - nal life.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: *(based on I Corinthians 11:26)*

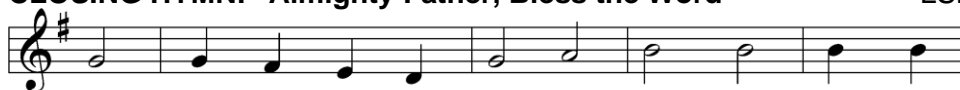
L: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

P: Therefore, keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage we pray Lord, that on the day of Your coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in Your kingdom that has no end.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: "Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

LSB 923



1 Al - mighty - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward
3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!
wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

POSTLUDE

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"Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia" LSB 466

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"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" LSB 821

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87. Text and music: Public domain.

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" LSB 474

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"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" LSB 394

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93. Text and music: Public domain.

"We Know that Christ Is Raised" LSB 603

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"Eat This Bread" LSB 638

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"Almighty Father, Bless the Word" LSB 923

Text: *Church Poetry*, Philadelphia, sts. 1-2, alt.; Thomas Ken, st. 3. Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois. Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 8:00...Connor Clevon
Crucifer 9:30...Timothy O’Conner
Lector 8:00...Katie Musick
Liturgist 8:00...Karl Fink
Director of Music & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman
Children’s Message...Alissa Brege

Crucifer 8:00...Penelope Clevon
Lector 9:30...Vance Frederick
Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

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If You’re a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany’s fillable information form.



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Average Sunday morning in-person worship attendance Sept – Dec 2023 – 372 per week

Average Sunday morning in-person worship attendance Sept – Dec 2024 – 396 per week

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Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Bullet**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

Bethany Lutheran Church and its Ministries are found at: www.bethanylutheran.org

Bethany Lutheran School information can be found by visiting their website at: www.bethanylutheran.org/school/

Bethany Preschool's website: www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/

To sign up for the weekly **Bethany Bullet**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBulletSignUp>

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DONATE TO BETHANY'S FLOWER FUND!

Flowers are used to decorate the altar every Sunday, for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other important dates during the church calendar. You are able to make two types of donations to the Altar Flower Fund: a general donation and a special request with recognition.



- **A SPECIAL REQUEST WITH RECOGNITION*** is a special type of Altar Flower donation. This request will be printed in the bulletin. For example, it could be given in memory of a person who has gone before us, for a wedding anniversary, baptismal birthday or a birthday celebration, etc. **This recognition has a suggested donation of \$75.**
- **A GENERAL DONATION TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND** enables Bethany to have flowers in worship and for our shut-in and hospitalized members to receive flowers from our flower ministry team, even when no one has ordered flowers for specific purposes on Sunday. **This General Donation is for any amount you wish to give.**

*If you are making a **Special Request with Recognition**, please use this form to let us know of your donation **for a specific Sunday date** and what the significance of that donation is towards. **IMPORTANT:** Please complete this form at least **2 weeks prior** to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be printed in the Sunday bulletin for the date requested.

Sign up to donate to Bethany's Altar Flower Fund, please use this URL:

<https://bit.ly/BLCAltarFlowers>



Or scan Bethany's Flower Fund QR code to the right: