He is making ALL THINGS NEW

a service of lessons, music, & celebration featuring the choirs & ensembles of Bethany Lutheran Church & School

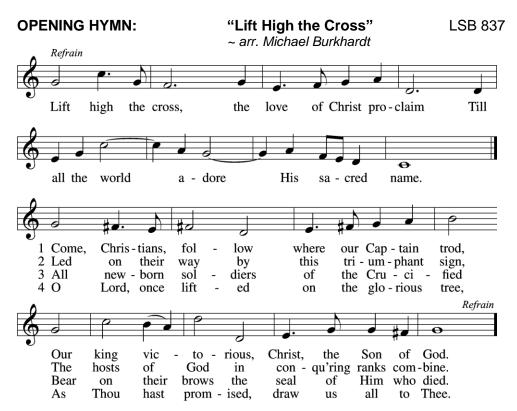
Sunday, May 18 | 8:00am & 9:30am 4644 Clark Ave. Long Beach, CA 90808 www.BethanyLutheranMusicMinistry.org

May 18, 2025 Fifth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE:

"The Ash Grove" ~arr. Sondra Tucker Crescendo Handbell Choir

WELCOME



- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

EASTER ACCLAMATION:

- L: Christ is Risen!
- P: He is Risen Indeed!
- **L**: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.
- P: Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: When we were baptized into Christ Jesus we were baptized into His death. We were therefore buried with Him so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly be united with Him in His resurrection.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

- **L**: If we say we have no sin,
- **P**: we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- L: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
- **P**: will forgive our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.
- L: Shepherd and guardian of our souls we confess to You, that like sheep we have gone astray, and we have turned to our own way.
- P: At times Lord we have accidentally left the path that is narrow for the attraction of that which simple; on occasions we have chosen to wander into territory where we know temptation is great; and we have even intentionally pursued that which You have forbidden. For the sake of the Lamb of God, slain for us, forgive us our sins, place us on Your shoulders and restore us to Yourself. Amen.
- **L**: In the mercy of God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

O Lord God, Your love knows no bounds and refuses to be confined by human standards. Pour into our hearts a love life Your own, that renewed by Your Spirit, we may be the means by which many come to know the love of God in Christ, who dwells with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: "Psalm 46 (Be Still)"

God is our refugee, our strength and our shield, An ever-present help. We will not fear though the earth gives way, and the mountains crash into the sea.

There is a river whose streams will make glad the city of our most High King. God is within her, and she will not fail, He helps her at break of the day,

Nation in uproar, men's kingdoms, they fall, He speaks and the earth melts away. The words we imagine, the strongest of storms, Our fortress, it will still remain.

There is a river whose streams will make glad the city of our most High King. God is within her, and she will not fail, Listen and hear the Lord say:

"Be still, and know that I am God."

Come, let us see what the Lord has done, the ruins He brings to the earth. He makes wars to cease to the ends of the earth, He shatters the bow and the spear.

There is a river whose streams will make glad the city of our most High King. God is within her, and she will not fail, Listen and hear the Lord say:

"Be still, and know that I am God."

FIRST READING: Revelation 21: 1-7 (read responsively)

- L: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,
- P: for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
- L: And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
- P: coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- L: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
- **P**: "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.
- **L**: He will dwell with them, and they will be His people,
- **P**: and God Himself will be with them as their God.
- L: He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
- **P**: and death shall be no more,
- L: neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,
- **P**: for the former things have passed away."
- L: And He who was seated on the throne said,
- P: "Behold, I am making all things new."
- L: Also, He said,
- **P**: "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
- L: And He said to me,
- **P**: "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega,
- **L**: the beginning and the end.
- **P**: To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.
- **L**: The one who conquers will have this heritage,
- **P**: and I will be his God and He will be my Son. -ESV®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

"All Things New" ~Elaine Hagenberg **Bethany Choir**

SECOND READING: Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." But Peter began and explained it to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as He gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things, they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life." -ESV®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

"Lift Up Your Voice" ~arr. Brian C. Strain Trinity Choir 8:00 am Troubadour Choir 9:30

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

"I Will Make a Way"" ~arr. Tom Trenney **Bethany Choir**

GOSPEL: John 13:33-35

Jesus said, "Dear children, I will still be with you for a little while. I'm telling you what I told the Jews. You will look for Me, but you can't go where I'm going.

"I'm giving you a new commandment: Love each other in the same way that I have loved you. Everyone will know that you are My disciples because of your love for each other." –gw®



MESSAGE



OFFERING: There is a plate in the Narthex for your gifts. If you so desire, TEXT GIVING is available by texting GIVE to 562 210-0463. You can also mail in your gifts to the church office.

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:

L: Eternal is the gift He brings; may these our gifts bring hearts to sing:

P: Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia!

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.

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 as 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

For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are <u>alcohol free</u>. 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 <u>gluten free</u>.

At both services, 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:

"At the Lamb's High Feast"

Jubilate Handbell Choir

~arr. Lee J. Afdahl

"We Will Feast"

Chorus

We will feast in the house of Zion We will sing with our hearts restored He has done great things we will say together We will feast and weep no more

Verse 1

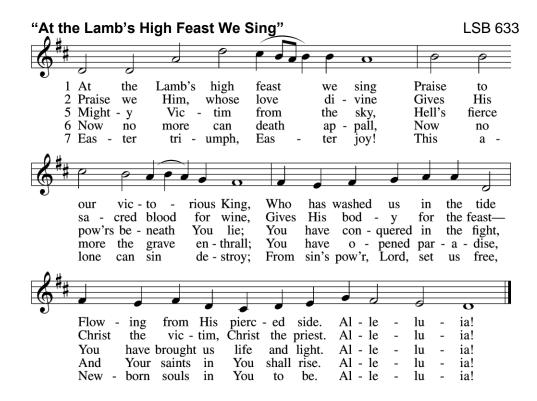
We will not be burned by the fire He is the Lord our God We are not consumed by the flood Upheld protected gathered up

Verse 2

In the dark of night before the dawn My soul be not afraid For the promised morning oh how long Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Verse 3

Every vow we've broken and betrayed You are the faithful one And from the garden to the grave Bind us together bring shalom



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

L: Now the God of peace Himself keep you blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it! Go in peace.



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"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" LSB 790 Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt. Tune: *Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs*, Stralsund, 1665; Setting: Jeffrey N. Blersch © 2008 Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission. Streamed under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Text and music: Public domain.

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"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" LSB 633 Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-68, alt. Tune: *Kirchengeseng*, Ivancice, 1566; Setting: Kenneth T. Kosche. © 2002 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Streamed and Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706149. Text and tune: Public domain

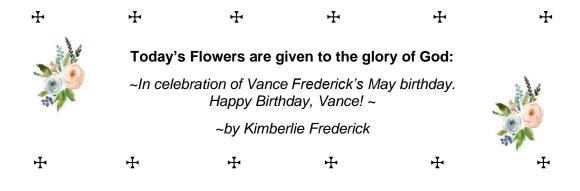
"Crown Him with Many Crowns" LSB 525 Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, sts. 1-3, 5, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4. Tune: *DIADEMATA*, George J. Elvey, 1816-93; Setting: Jeffrey N. Blersch. ©2007 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Permission to reproduce congregational page granted for one-time use. Streamed and Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Text & music: Public domain.

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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Audrey Kienitz Crucifer 9:30...Logan Noble Lector 8:00...Claude Potter Lector 9:30...Lily Craft Preacher...Pastor Kyle Blake Liturgist...Pastor John Alwood Director of Music and Worship Arts...Noah Freeman Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley Children's Message...Rev. John Alwood Organ...Robert Bottoms Accompanist...Kevin Bowers Crescendo Bells Dir...Sara Cerulle Trumpets...Mara Widmann, Jacob Lange Trombones...Ken Black, Rich Bullock Timpani...Gabriel "Slam" Nobles Sound...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann Word Alive & Music Ministry Partners...Aleina Smith, Steve Schliebe; Pat Gagan, Trinity Alwood

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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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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: <u>https://bit.ly/BethanyBulletSignUp</u>

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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 <u>**2 weeks prior**</u> to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be <u>printed in the Sunday bulletin</u> 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:

Bethany Lutheran Church

FOUNDATION New constitution and by-laws approved by Voters.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: ELECTED LEADERSHIP

- 7 elected members
- Spring annual elections
- Spring 2026 alternating elections of 2–3 members for 3– year terms



Sent

- Team chairs and cochairs appointed by Board of Directors
- Team member opportunities:
 - 🙏 Spiritual Life
 - \$ Finance
 - 🎢 Facilities
 - 🖱 Schools
 - Cypress Mission and Ministry

DATES & OPPORTUNITIES

• June 8 Voter's Meeting: Budget Approval and Board Elections

- Nominations close May 25
- Six current Board members willing to stand for re-election

Interested in serving on the Board of Directors? Contact any current Board member:

- Joey Cerulle
- Bob Lange
- Bob Petrillo

- Josette Utke
- Jeremy O'Conner
- John Holmquist



Definition: a group that comes together for a specific purpose/task.

- Could be *weekly* (count offerings, deliver flowers)
- Could be annually for an event (OktoBEARfest or Operation Christmas Child)
- Could be an ongoing ministry group

A Task Force can be formed by a staff member or congregation members who see a need, have a desire to serve and have a staff member or member of BoD for support.