



Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 3, 2026

Bethany Lutheran, Long Beach

PRELUDE:

“Processional”
~Arnold B. Sherman

Jubilate Handbell Choir

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

LSB 461



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to
8 He lives, all glo - ry to His name! He lives, my



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
wipe a - way my tears; He lives to calm my
Je - sus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION: *(based on 1 Peter 1:3&4)*

L: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

P: **In His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead!**

L: and an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: *(based on 1 Peter 2:11-12, 18, 21-22)*

L: Dear Friends, I urge you as aliens and strangers in this world to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

P: **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, and by grace bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

SERMON HYMN:

“O Word of God”

~Craig Courtney

**Congregation will join in singing on this final stanza*

O — make Your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of — pur - est
gold, to — bear be - fore the na - tions Your
true light — as of old. O teach Your wan - d'ring
pil - grims by this their path to trace, till,
clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see You face to face.

MESSAGE: “When You’re a Stranger” | Peter 2:19-25

HYMN OF THE DAY: "When In Our Music God is Glorified"

LSB 796



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied
3 So has the Church, in lit - ur - gy and song,
5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!



And ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,
In faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,
Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!



It is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
Borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue:
And may God give us faith to sing al - ways:



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

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 Andria at arosas@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS: (based on 1 Peter 4:10)

L: Each one of us should use whatever gifts we have received from God to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: (1 Peter 3:15)

L: The apostle calls us to set Christ apart as Lord and be prepared to share the reason for the hope we have in Him. The hope summarized in the Creed we confess with all those who live on earth as strangers and long for Christ's appearing:

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.**

L: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.**

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

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 prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the hymnal. 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 sacred meal.

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. Amen.”

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**.

In 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“Jesus Loves Me”

LSB 588



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

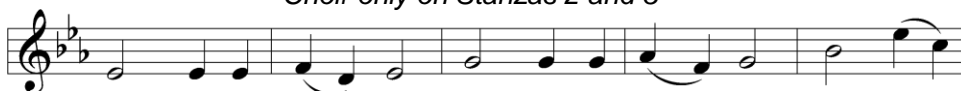


Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

“Beautiful Savior”

LSB 537

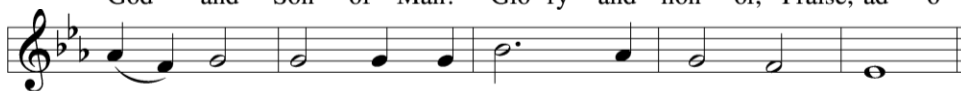
*Choir only on Stanzas 2 and 3



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

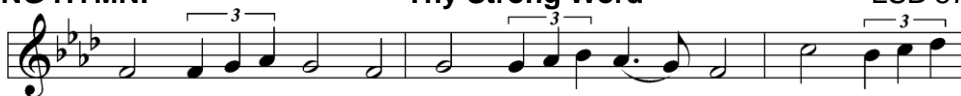
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING: (*based on 1 Peter 4:11*)

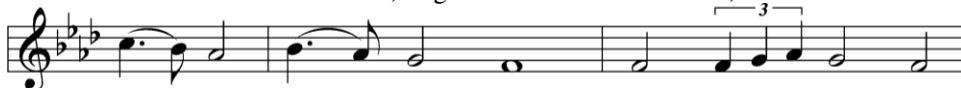
- L:** The Lord will bless and keep you, make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
- P:** To Him be praise, glory, and power forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:**“Thy Strong Word”**

LSB 578



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - a - tor, To Thee



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 laud and hon - or be. To Thee, Light of



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 Light be - got - ten, Praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, Glo - ry,



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 glo - ry be to Thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 now and ev - er Praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

POSTLUDE:**“Prelude on “EBENEZER” or “TON-Y-BOTEL”**

Organ

~Healey Willan

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"Thy Strong Word" LSB 578

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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 8:00...Anastasia Kienitz	Crucifer 8:00...Liam Quitariano
Lector 8:00...Neal and Barbara Hasty	Lector 9:30...Ruth Lopez
Liturgist...Pastor Kevin Kritzer	Preacher...Reverend Mark Siegart
Director of Music Ministries and Worship Arts...Noah Freeman	
Crescendo Bells Director...Sara Cerulle	Organist...Robert Bottoms
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers	Trumpet...Jacob Lange, Mara Widmann
Trombone...Ken Black	Tuba...Craig Dean
Timpani...Gabriel "Slam" Nobles	Children's Message...Alissa Brege
Sound/Production...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann	



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.



Parents of Young Children: We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don't feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God's house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, “worship bags” are available in the Narthex with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available in our Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment.

Bethany’s Nursery is located across the courtyard. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we’re happy to help.



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: