



Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 10, 2026

Bethany Lutheran, Long Beach

PRELUDE:

“Fantasia in G Major, BWV 572”

Organ

~J. S. Bach

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

LSB 467



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!
5 The world a - gainst me ra - ges, Its fu - ry I dis - dain;
6 Now I will cling for - ev - er To Christ, my Sav - ior true;



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.
Though bit - ter war it wa - ges, Its work is all in vain.
My Lord will leave me nev - er, What - e'er He pass - es through.



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made
No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take
My heart from care is free, No trou - ble trou - bles me.
He rends death's i - ron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.
Mis - for - tune now is play, And night is bright as day.
He shat - ters hell's grimthrall; I fol - low Him through all.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION: *(based on 1 Peter 1:1 & 2)*

- L:** Strangers in the world, God's own people, chosen according to the Father's knowledge, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and the blood of Jesus
- P:** **Grace and peace are ours in abundance.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: *(based on 1 Peter 1:14, 1:18-19 & 2:1)*

- L:** As obedient children rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.
- P:** **Most merciful God, we confess that too often we are disobedient children who fail to love You with our whole hearts; and who fail to love their neighbors as**

much as we love ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that as obedient children we delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

L: Beloved children of the Lord, it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. Through Him you have been forgiven and so your faith and hope are in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in the middle of the court and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious. As I was going through your city and looking closely at the objects you worship, I noticed an altar with this written on it: ‘To an unknown god.’ I’m telling you about the unknown god you worship. The God who made the universe and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn’t live in shrines made by humans, and He isn’t served by humans as if He needed anything. He gives everyone life, breath, and everything they have. From one man he has made every nation of humanity to live all over the earth. He has given them the seasons of the year and the boundaries within which to live. He has done this so that they would look for God, somehow reach for him, and find him. In fact, He is never far from any one of us. Certainly, we live, move, and exist because of him. As some of your poets have said, ‘We are God’s children.’ So if we are God’s children, we shouldn’t think that the divine being is like an image made from gold, silver, or stone, an image that is the product of human imagination and skill.

“God overlooked the times when people didn’t know any better. But now He commands everyone everywhere to turn to him and change the way they think and act. He has set a day when He is going to judge the world with justice, and He will use a man He has appointed to do this. God has given proof to everyone that He will do this by bringing that man back to life.”—GW®

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Who will harm you if you are devoted to doing what is good? But even if you suffer for doing what God approves, you are blessed. Don’t be afraid of those who want to harm you. Don’t get upset. But dedicate your lives to Christ as Lord. Always be ready to defend your confidence in God when anyone asks you to explain it. However, make your defense with gentleness and respect. Keep your conscience clear. Then those who treat the good Christian life you live with contempt will feel ashamed that they have ridiculed you. After all, if it is God’s will, it’s better to suffer for doing good than for doing wrong.

This is true because Christ suffered for our sins once. He was an innocent person, but He suffered for guilty people so that He could bring you to God. His body was put to death, but He was brought to life through His spirit. In it He also went to proclaim His victory to the spirits kept in prison. They are like those who disobeyed long ago in the days of Noah when God waited patiently while Noah built the ship. In this ship a few people—eight in all—were

saved by water. Baptism, which is like that water, now saves you. Baptism doesn't save by removing dirt from the body. Rather, baptism is a request to God for a clear conscience. It saves you through Jesus Christ, who came back from death to life. Now Christ has gone to heaven where He holds the honored position—the one next to God the Father on the throne. Angels, rulers, and powers have been placed under His authority. –GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: “It’s About Love”; “When We All Live as One” Bethany K-2

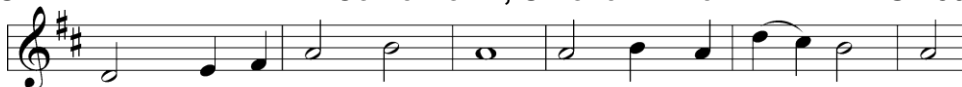
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: *John 14:15-21*

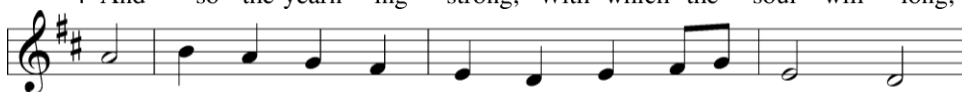
“If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another helper who will be with you forever. That helper is the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it doesn't see or know Him. You know Him, because He lives with you and will be in you.

“I will not leave you all alone. I will come back to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. You will live because I live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father and that you are in me and that I am in you. Whoever knows and obeys my commandments is the person who loves me. Those who love me will have my Father's love, and I, too, will love them and show myself to them.” –GW®

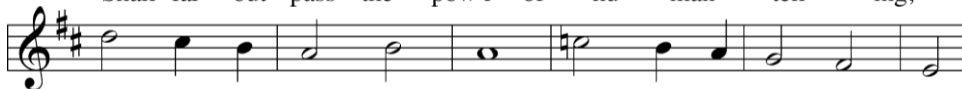
SERMON HYMN: “Come Down, O Love Divine” LSB 501



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; Seek Thou this soul of mine,
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty Mine out - ward ves - ture be
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, With which the soul will long,



And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 And low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
 Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; With - in my heart ap - pear,
 True low - li - ness of heart, Which takes the hum - bler part,
 No soul can guess His grace Till it be - come the place



And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 And o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

MESSAGE: "When You're a Stranger" | Peter 3:13-22

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" LSB 556



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion
3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer - it
4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be - fore the world's foun -
5 God said to His be - lov - ed Son: "It's time to have com -



spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly
gain - ing; Free will a - gainst God's judg - ment fought, Dead to all
da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for
pas - sion. Then go, bright jew - el of My crown, And bring to



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How
good re - main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer de - spair Left
my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther's heart; He
all sal - va - tion. From sin and sor - row set them free; Slay



His right arm the vic - t'ry won. What price our ran - som cost Him!
on - ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf - fered.
did not choose the eas - y part But gave His dear - est trea - sure.
bit - ter death for them that they May live with You for - ev - er."

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 2:4-5)*

L: You have come to Jesus, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him.

P: **We, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.**

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:

NICENE CREED: (**catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy *catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

L: Humbly, under God's mighty hand we come before Him in prayer, casting all anxiety on Him because He cares for us (*1 Peter 5:6-7*) praying, Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer:

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.

***** For our 8:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on page 9
with Announcements.**

***** For our 9:30 a.m. worshippers, the service continues with the Celebration of
Holy Communion:**

✠ 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, center cups in each tray are alcohol free.
The wafers next to the Christ candle are gluten free;
for those with dietary restrictions, please take a gluten free wafer.*

In our 9:30 a.m. 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.

L: Blessed are You, Lord God, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your Son into our flesh to carry our sin in His own body on the cross and be our Savior. Gathered in the name and remembrance of Jesus, we pray that You would forgive, renew and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us to faithfully eat His body and drink His blood as He calls us to do in His own words, "For on the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:

P: "Take, eat; this is my ✝ body, which is given for you.

L: This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying:

P: "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.

L: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the mystery of faith,

P: Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

L: Amen, Come Lord Jesus; and the peace of the Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

"Your Table I Approach"

LSB 628



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;
6 Oh, may I nev - er fail To thank You day and night



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.
For Your true bod - y and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

“Father Welcomes”

LSB 605

Refrain



Fa - ther wel-comes all His chil - dren To His fam - 'ly
through His Son. Fa - ther giv - ing His sal - va - tion,
Life for - ev - er has been won.

1 Lit - tle chil - dren, come to Me, For My king - dom
2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, In His prom - ise,
3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; Let us dai - ly

is of these. Life and love I have to give,
be as - sured: Those who are bap - tized and be - lieve
rise with Him, Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,

Refrain

Mer - cy for your sin.
Shall be born a - gain.
Live in the peace of God.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

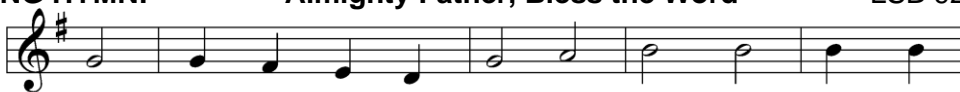
BLESSING: (based on 1 Peter 4:11)

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:**“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”**

LSB 923



1 Al - mighty 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: II. Menuet Gothique from Suite Gothique, Opus 25

Organ

~Leon Boellman

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“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness” LSB 467

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. John Kelly, 1833-90, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662; setting: *Lutheran Service Book*, 2006. Setting: ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149 Text and Tune: Public domain

“Come Down, O Love Divine” LSB 501

Text: Bianco da Siena, c. 1350-1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833-90 Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958 Text and Music: Public domain.

“Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” LSB 556

Text: Martin Luther; tr. Richard Massie, alt. Tune: *Etlich Cristlich lider*, Wittenberg; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text & Tune: Public domain

“Your Table I Approach” LSB 628

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633-1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt. Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois; Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and tune: Public domain.

“Father Welcomes” LSB 605

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“Almighty Father, Bless the Word” LSB 923

Text: *Church Poetry*, Philadelphia, 1823, sts. 1-2, alt.; Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, st. 3. Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00...Elsie Rivera
Liturgist & Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

Lector 9:30...David Akins
Organist...Robert Bottoms
Children’s Message...Alissa Brege



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.



Today’s Flowers are given to the glory of God:

~ for Mark and Christine Armendariz who celebrated their 40th

Wedding Anniversary on May 9th ~



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.

Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Broadcast**—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 Broadcast**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBroadcastSignUp>



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>