



# Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 17, 2026

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**Bethany Lutheran, Long Beach**

**PRELUDE:**

**“The Solid Rock”** Crescendo Handbell Choir  
~William B. Bradbury; Arr. Linda R. Lamb

**WELCOME**

**OPENING SONG:**

**“Sing”**

**Verse 1**

We are a broken people  
Not worthy of Your grace  
Humbly we will enter  
The temple of Your praise

**Verse 2**

Fall to our knees  
Lay at Your scarred feet  
The Lamb who took our place  
Upon the mercy seat

**Pre-Chorus**

And You sing over us  
You sing over us

**Chorus**

And we'll sing of Your great mercy  
Sing of Your great grace  
Because of Your great love  
We'll sing aloud Your praise  
(REPEAT)

**Verse 3**

You are the one  
Who's made us hold and set apart  
Claimed as Your people  
We worship You the One True God

**Bridge**

As You sing  
As we sing

**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.**
- L:** Jesus Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, the righteous of the unrighteous, to bring us to God. By His wounds we have been healed. Our sins have been forgiven and we have been saved by the risen Jesus, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand. Amen.

## **FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-26**

At a time when about 120 disciples had gathered together, Peter got up and spoke to them.

He said, "Brothers, what the Holy Spirit predicted through David in Scripture about Judas had to come true. Judas led the men to arrest Jesus. He had been one of us and had been given an active role in this ministry. With the money he received from the wrong he had done, he bought a piece of land where he fell headfirst to his death. His body split open, and all his internal organs came out. Everyone living in Jerusalem knows about this. They even call that piece of land *Akeldama*, which means 'Field of Blood' in their dialect. You've read in Psalms, 'Let his home be deserted, and let no one live there,' and 'Let someone else take his position.'

"Therefore, someone must be added to our number to serve with us as a witness that Jesus came back to life. He must be one of the men who accompanied Jesus with us the entire time that the Lord Jesus was among us. This person must have been with us from the time that John was baptizing people to the day that Jesus was taken from us."

The disciples determined that two men were qualified. These men were Joseph (who was called Barsabbas and was also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, You know everyone's thoughts. Show us which of these two You have chosen. Show us who is to take the place of Judas as an apostle, since Judas abandoned his position to go to the place where he belongs."

They drew names to choose an apostle. Matthias was chosen and joined the eleven apostles. -GW®

## **SECOND READING: *1 Peter 4:12-19***

Dear friends, don't be surprised by the fiery troubles that are coming in order to test you. Don't feel as though something strange is happening to you, but be happy as you share Christ's sufferings. Then you will also be full of joy when he appears again in His glory. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed because the Spirit of glory—the Spirit of God—is resting on you.

If you suffer, you shouldn't suffer for being a murderer, thief, criminal, or troublemaker. If you suffer for being a Christian, don't feel ashamed, but praise God for being called that name. The time has come for the judgment to begin, and it will begin with God's family. If it starts with us, what will be the end for those who refuse to obey the Good News of God? If it's hard for the person who has God's approval to be saved, what will happen to the godless sinner? Those who suffer because that is God's will for them must entrust themselves to a faithful creator and continue to do what is good. –GW®

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **GOSPEL: *John 17:1-11***

After saying this, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the time is here. Give Your Son glory so that Your Son can give You glory. After all, You've given Him authority over all humanity so that He can give eternal life to all those You gave to Him. This is eternal life: to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You sent. On earth I have given You glory by finishing the work You gave Me to do. Now, Father, give Me glory in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world existed.

"I made Your name known to the people You gave Me. They are from this world. They belonged to You, and You gave them to Me. They did what You told them. Now they know that everything You gave Me comes from You, because I gave them the message that You gave Me. They have accepted this message, and they know for sure that I came from You. They have believed that You sent Me.

"I pray for them. I'm not praying for the world but for those You gave Me, because they are Yours. Everything I have is Yours, and everything You have is mine. I have been given glory by the people You have given Me. I won't be in the world much longer, but they are in the world, and I'm coming back to You. Holy Father, keep them safe by the power of Your name, the name that You gave Me, so that their unity may be like ours. –GW®



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;  
 See the an - cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic - tim For the world's sal - va - tion bled—  
 Once He died, and once was bur - ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.  
 Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor - ship and a - dore.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

MESSAGE: “When You’re a Stranger” | Peter 4:12-19

**SONG OF THE DAY:**

**“Ignite”**

**Verse 1**

Lord you call us  
To be people of peace  
To reconcile  
And to redeem  
Lord we're willing  
But we are weak  
Give us strength to serve  
All we meet

**Pre-Chorus 1**

To the weak and the poor made known  
May your love through us be shown

**Chorus 1**

Spirit of God ignite our hearts, to burn bright for yours  
Let us be the light to all, all the dark

**Verse 2**

Lord you call us  
To be people of love  
Living sacrifice  
To your glory of Lord  
Transform us  
By the blood of your Son  
Bringing justice and mercy  
Walking with you God

**Pre-Chorus 2**

To the weak and the poor made known  
May your love through us be shown

**Chorus 2**

Spirit of God ignite our hearts, to burn bright for yours  
Let us be the light to all, all the dark

**Bridge**

Ignite in us pure holiness  
Cleanse us from all selfishness  
Lead us in paths of righteousness  
To the work You prepared in advance for us

**Chorus 3**

Spirit of God ignite our hearts, to burn bright for yours  
Let us be the light to all, all the dark

## **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](mailto:arosas@bethanylutheran.org) or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

## **CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:** *(based on I 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:** *(I 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.**

## 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.**

## ✠ 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.*

**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  $\text{✝}$  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  $\text{✝}$  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:

### "In Holy Conversation"

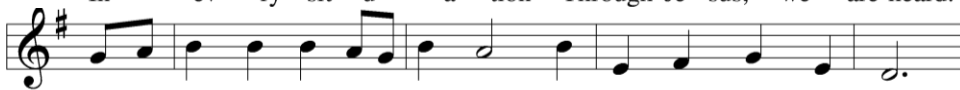
LSB 722



1 In ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion We speak to God in prayer,  
2 These ho - ly con - ver - sa - tions Be - gin in child - like ways;  
3 As ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion, In si - lence or by word,



And at His in - vi - ta - tion Our deep - est thoughts we share.  
We bring our sup - pli - ca - tions And words of thanks and praise.  
In ev - 'ry sit - u - a - tion Through Je - sus, we are heard.



We come, His will o - bey - ing, As chil - dren bring - ing needs;  
With care our Fa - ther lis - tens To ev - 'ry thought ex - pressed,  
So let us pray se - cure - ly, Ex - press - ing hopes and fears



And to sup - port our pray - ing, His Spir - it in - ter - ced - es.  
Then an - swers our pe - ti - tions In ways He knows are best.  
With con - fi - dence that sure - ly Our Fa - ther ev - er hears.

## **“His Mercy is More”**

### **Verse 1**

What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

### **Verse 2**

What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father so tender is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

### **Verse 3**

What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

### **Chorus**

Praise the Lord His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

## **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.**



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.  
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
 His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who  
 Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.  
 Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

## POSTLUDE



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“Sing”

CCLI Song # 7064066

Blake Flattley

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“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” LSB 477

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, sts. 1, 3; rev. Jubilate Hymns Ltd., st. 2.

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827; adapt. Edward Hodges 1796-1867.

Text (sts. 1, 3) and music: Public domain

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“Ignite”

CCLI Song # 7087805

Blake Flattley

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“In Holy Conversation” LSB 772

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946 Tune: Swedish; Bred Dina Vida Vingar Tune: Public domain

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“His Mercy is More”

CCLI Song #7065053 Matt Boswell | Matt Papas.

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“Crown Him with Many Crowns” LSB 525

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, sts. 1, 3, 5, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958. Text and music: Public domain.



### **SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:**

Lector 8:00...Matt Ruiz

Liturgist...Karl Fink

Director of Music & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman

Crescendo Handbells Director...Sara Cerulle

Lector 9:30...Vance Frederick

Preacher...Vicar Ryan Fink

Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley

Children’s Message...Kayleigh Lopez



**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.

