Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 10, 2026
Bethany Lutheran Church

Welcome Visitors.
Please sign our visitor book. There activity bags available for small children, located by the entrance of sanctuary.

GATHERING

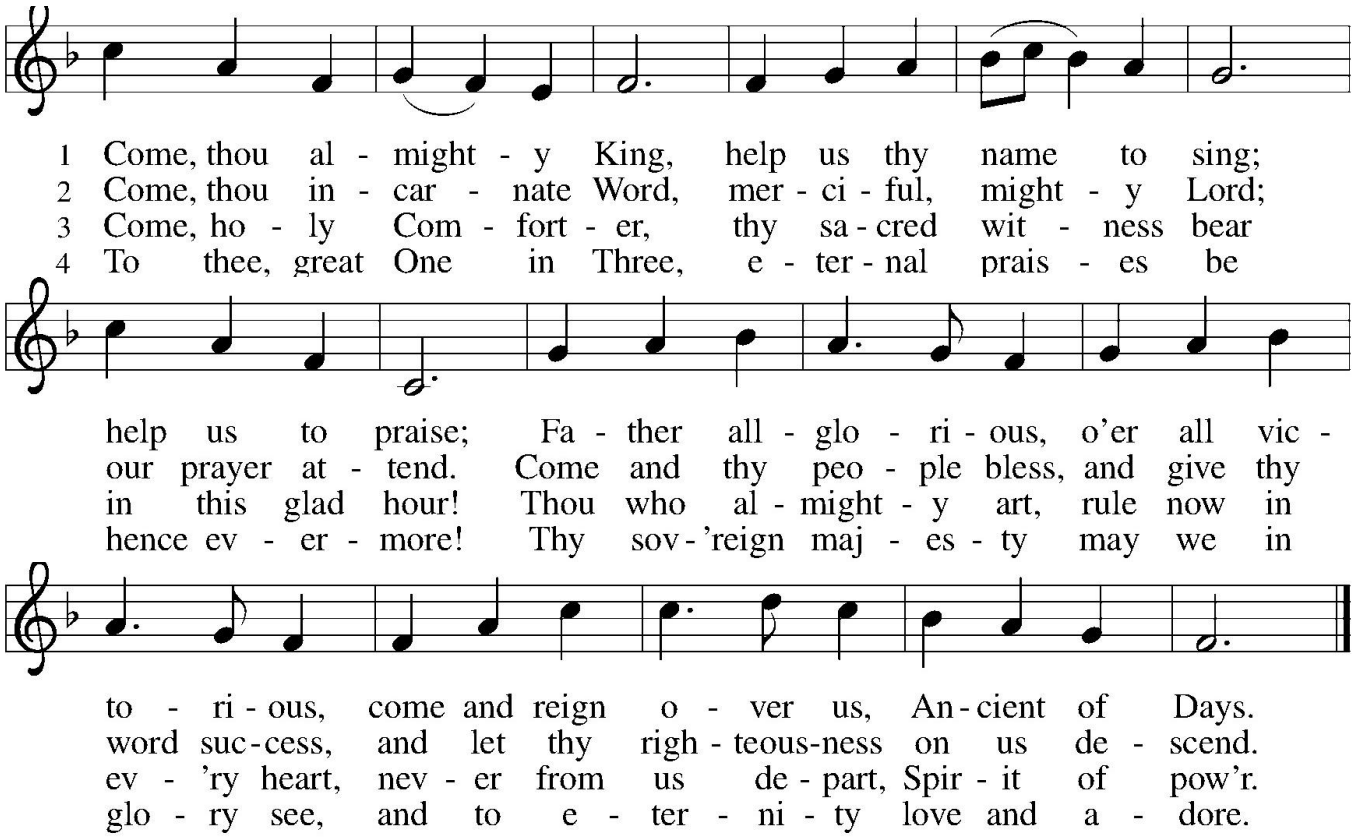
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb! **Amen.**
Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.
Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.
Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.
Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Come, Thou Almighty King* (ELW 408)



Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (ELW 184)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, **you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

A reading from Acts.

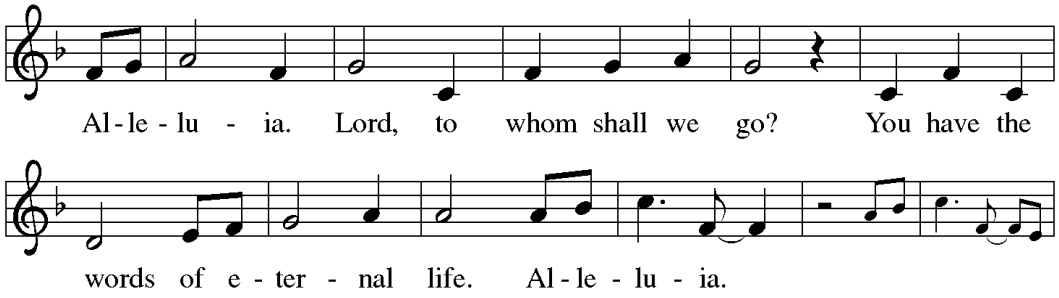
22 Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely
spiritual you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at
the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an
unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The
God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth,
does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as

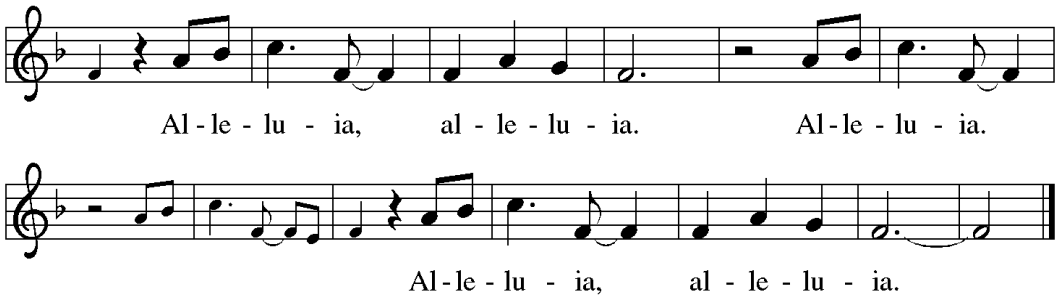
though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. [26] From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, [27] so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. [28] For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.' [29] "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. [30] While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, [31] because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from 1 Peter.
[13] Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? [14] But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, [15] but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, [16] yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. [17] For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. [18] For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, [19] in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, [20] who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. [21] And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, [22] who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

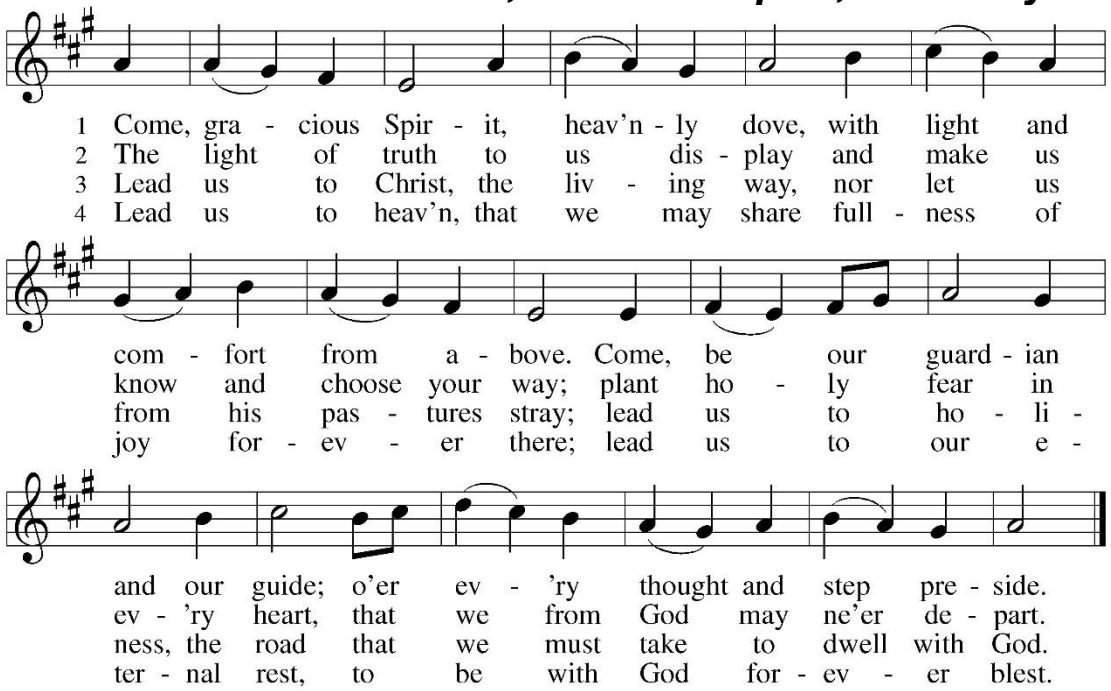
The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you
forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither
sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in
you. 18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world
will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that
day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have
my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will
be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove* (LBW 475)



Text: Simon Browne, 1680–1732, alt.
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

Each prayer petition ends: *Merciful God,* ***receive our prayer.***

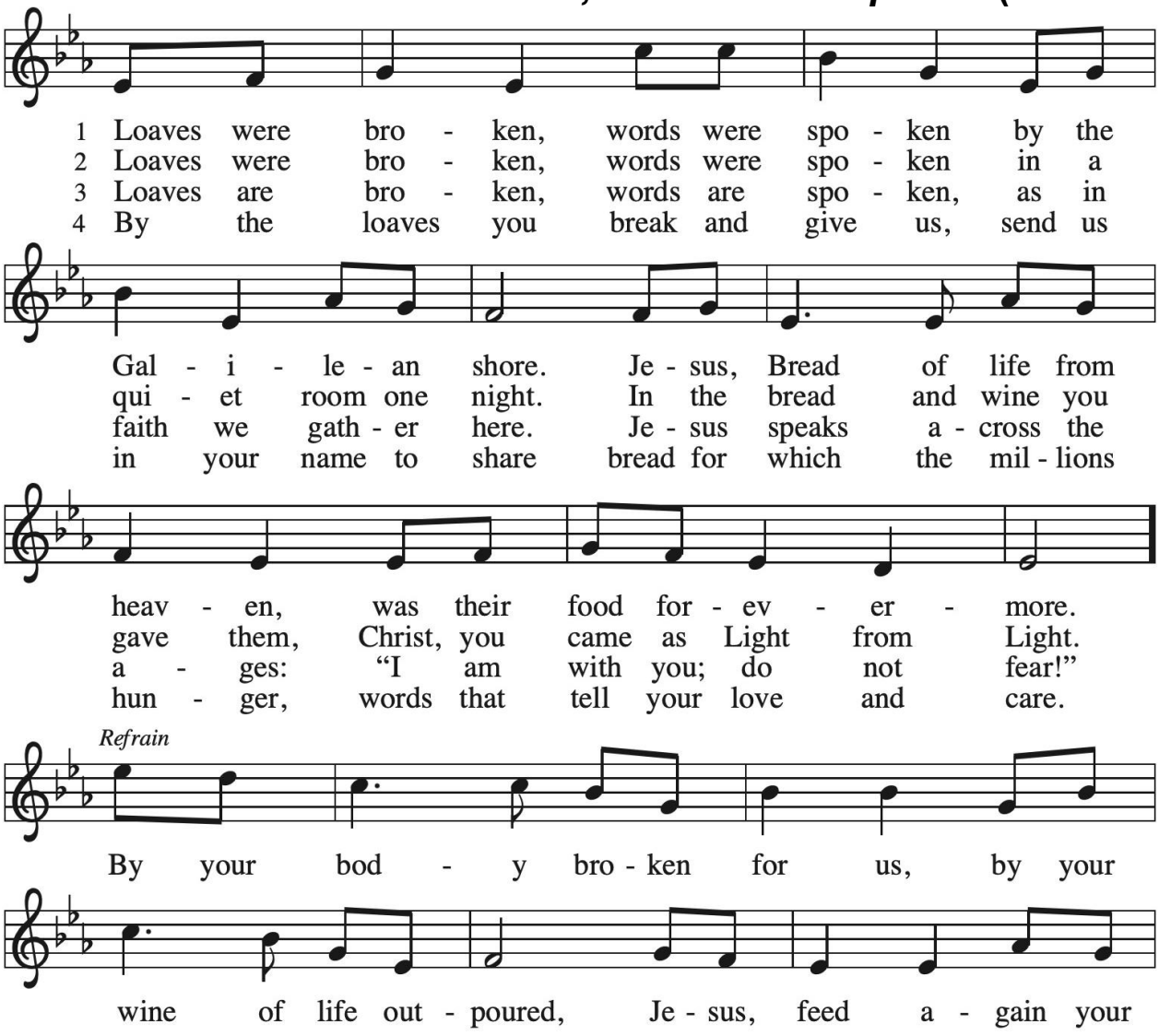
PEACE

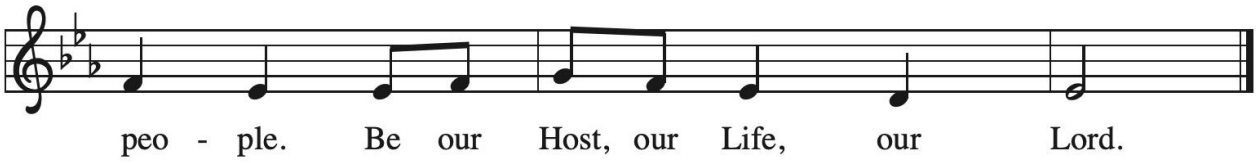
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken* (ACS 966)





Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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OFFERING PRAYER

DIALOGUE

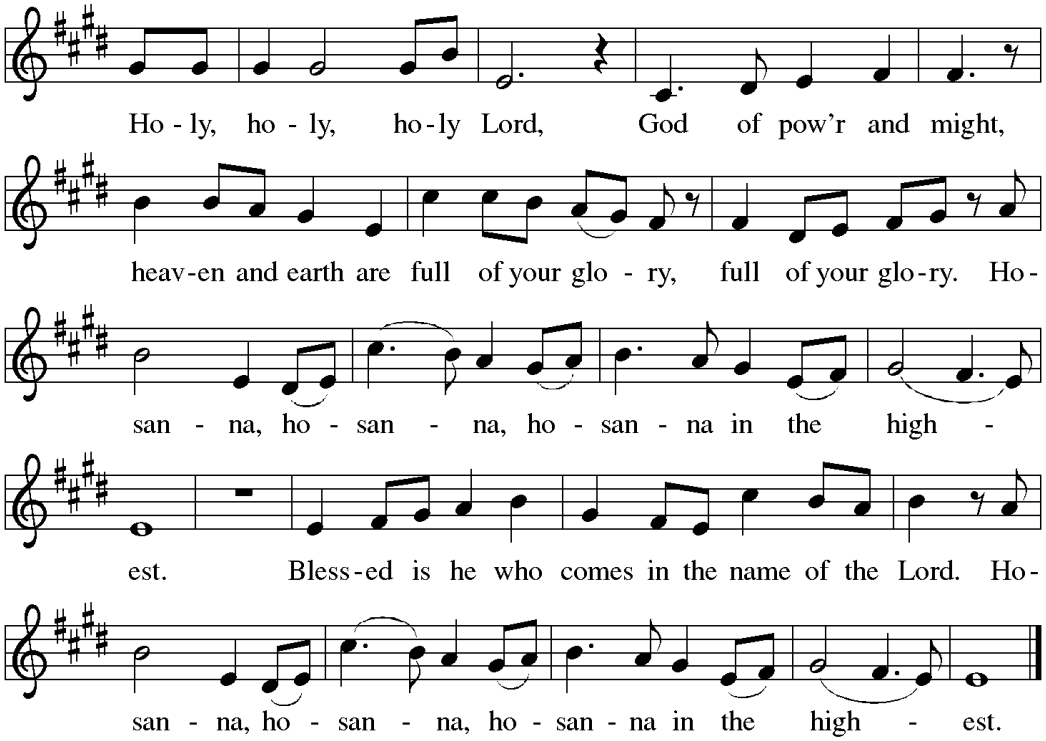
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age… With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With *[name/s and]* your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

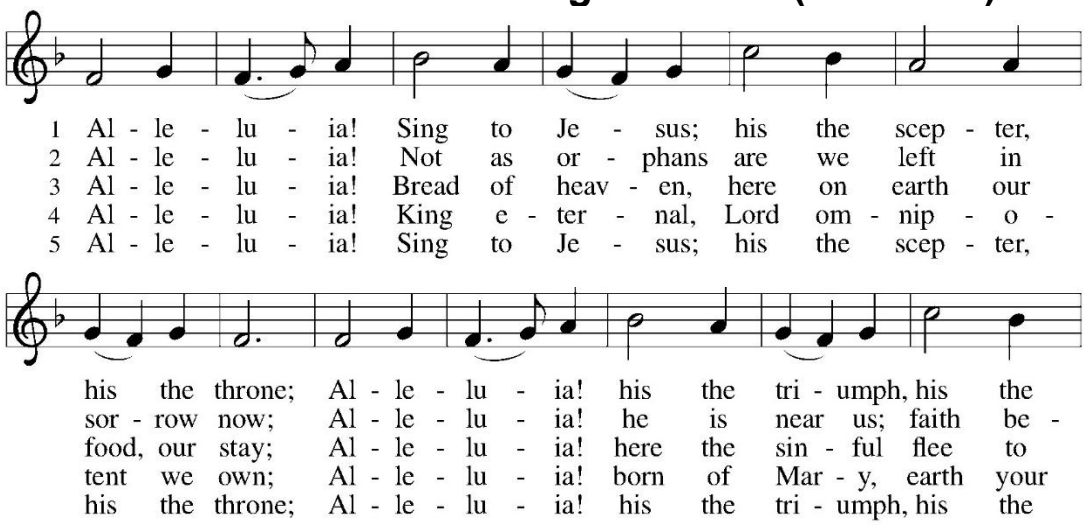
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

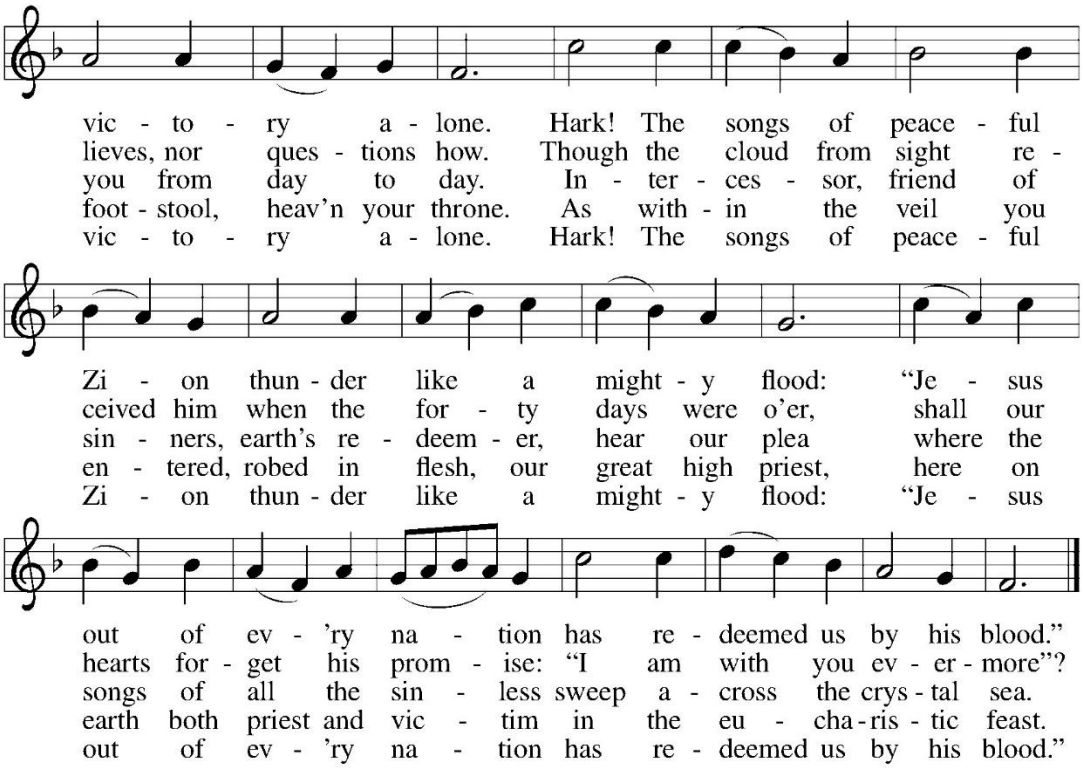
INVITATION TO COMMUNION
COMMUNION
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
BLESSING
SENDING SONG *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* (ELW 392)





Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

DISMISSAL

We go, renewed and fed to create life-giving relationships **through worship, outreach and service. Thanks be to God.**

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Worship on Sunday morning is recorded on Facebook from the 9AM service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 16th – 9 am - ? Indoor and Outdoor Spring Cleaning at Bethany.
- May 17th – Family Sunday School following service.
- May 19th – Beacon articles are due.
- May 24th – Joint Sunday Worship @ 10:30 am @ East Lemonweir.
- June 12th – WELCA Bethany Salad Luncheon & Silent Purse Auction
- Food Pantry items for May- Pasta Sauce, Packaged Pizza Dough, noodles, Ramen, etc.
- Items for our Baby Care Kits can be placed in the clear tote in the cloak room. Please note the posted changes that Lutheran World Relief has requested. Thanks.
- Quilters could use full or queen flat sheets. Thank you.
- A Lions Glass box is in the Bethany Narthex for disposal of old eyeglasses.
- Wednesday 9 am - Quilting
- Thursday – 9 am Bible Study
- Tuesday AA meetings 6:30 pm @ East Lemonweir/ Thursday 6:30 pm @ Bethany

Prayers of Concern:

Prayers for those who cannot worship with us today.

Prayers for those who have loss family and friends especially families of Helen Walker.

Prayers for those who serve to protect others.

Prayers for Betty Johnson, Sandy Hempel, Jamie Flannery, Gwen Tushaus, Amy Andres Peterson (daughter of Tom & Roxanne Andres), Holly Berry, Irv Wehman (Bridgette's Father), Dean Allard, Kalie Geitner (Galen & Janenne Lingl), Katie & Doug Johnson, Becky Bailey, Fred Wehman, Steve Werth, Ken Adams, Jordan Wehman, Tommy Paulson (Vanessa Lucas's Brother), John Preston, Wyatt, Garry Olson, Yvonne Olson, Jacob Sorenson, Mickie (Ron & Patti Thompson), Fran Benson, Landon LaBerge, Marilyn Wetley, and others we silently name.

Electronic giving is available via Vanco, using this QR Code