WELCOME

to Bethel Lutheran Church!

We are so glad you are here with us for worship. It is our mission here at Bethel to Connect, Grow, and Serve God and others.

On this sixth weekend of Easter, we are reminded through scripture, that Christ did not just come to forgive us our sins, so that we may have life eternal, but He came to teach us how to live, in the here and now. The Great News of all this, is that we don't have to do it alone, but God gives us His Holy Spirit to empower us each day.

It is our hope and prayer that as you leave worship today, you are reminded that God goes with you.

* You are invited to stand as you are able.

The Prelude: Improvisation on "Hyfrydol"

James

The Welcome/Announcements

*The Opening Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #631 (see insert for lyrics)

*The Pastoral Greeting:

Leader: We gather this day, in the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ.

People: We gather in the name of the One who created us, saved us, and dwells within us. Amen.

*Today's Responsive Reading: (from Discipleship Ministries)

L: When the world divides us...

P: Come, Holy Spirit, make us one.

L: When the world calls us orphaned...

P: Come, Holy Spirit, make us family.

L: When the world leads us astray...

P: Come, Holy Spirit, call us home.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, come! Come and fill this place!

*The Prayer of the Day:

L: Ever-Living God...

P: 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.
In the name of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*Sharing God's Peace:

L: The peace of the Lord be with you, always.

P: And also with you!

The Children's Message: Pastor Ladd Sonnenberg

Music Ministry: "Andante" from Sonata in B-minor J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Laurie Wyland, flute; Skip James, piano

The First Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-16

L: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Second Lesson: Psalm 66:16-20 (Read Responsively)

L: Come and hear, all you who fear God,

P: And I will tell what He has done for me.

L: I cried aloud to Him,

P: And He was extolled with my tongue.

L: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,

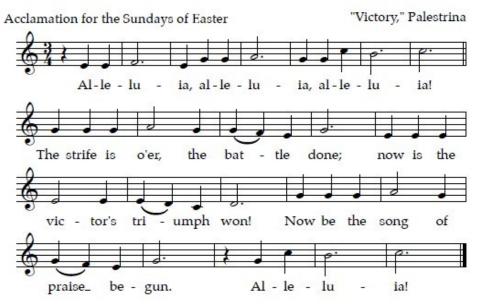
P: The Lord would not have listened.

L: But truly, God has listened;

P: He has given heed to the words of my prayer.

L: Blessed be God, because He has not rejected my prayer,

P: Or removed His steadfast love from me.



*The Gospel Lesson:

John 14:15-21

The Message: "Do I Have To?"

Pastor Ladd Sonnenberg

*The Hymn: "Where Charity and Love Prevail" #359

(See insert for lyrics)

*The Offering Prayer:

L: Sustaining God,

P: We can't thank You enough, for the fact that You always provide for us. Grant us eyes to see Your faithfulness and an attitude of gratitude. That way, we may act more and more like You, by giving what You have first given us. We pray this, in Christ's name. Amen!

Giving our First and Best to God through our Offering

The Offering Music: "Largo e dolce" from Sonata in B-minor J.S. Bach

Laurie Wyland, flute; Skip James, piano

*The Great Thanksgiving:

.: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is good, that no matter where we are whether at church or at home, that we come together as Christians, to hear once again our redemption story. For it is in the bread and wine we are reminded of the price Christ paid through His death to forgive our sins. Therefore, as we eat this bread and drink this wine, we declare to ourselves and all people that through Christ alone, our sins are forgiven, and Christ makes His home within us, once again.

*The 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.

*The Invitation to Communion:

L: The Feast is prepared. Come and share in this gift, freely given to us, by Jesus.

The Communion Hymn: "What Feast of Love"

#487

(See insert for lyrics)

*The Prayers of God's People:

L: Loving Savior...

P: Hear our every prayer.

^{*}The Words of Institution

^{*}The Communion Blessing

^{*}The Closing Blessing:

^{*}The Closing Hymn: "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" #536 (See insert for lyrics)

*The Sending:

L: May we go this day, remembering that ...

P: God loves us and calls us to love others the same.

Postlude: Improvisation on "God Be with You" James

WE HOLD IN PRAYER

THOSE WHO ARE SICK, INJURED AND IN NEED OF HEALING

Jerry Adams, Carol Amdahl, Marlin Amdahl, Jason Benson, Ken Bipes, Jeff Bowers, Joe Breault, Wallace Dachel, Teresa Dickman, Dale Drum, Paul Engebretson, Marlys Fiedler, Patrick Gibbons, Jane Hanson, Joy Hanson, Tyler Hanson, Sharon Haugo, Chuck Hildebrandt, Barb Holt, Jackie Hugdahl, Carol & Gary Jensen, Joe Kinney, Ken Larson, Pat Larson, Emily O'Malley-Larson, Ruth Lewis, Laura Lindahl, Bruce Miller, Brent Myster, Mary Kay Nolan, Donna Offerdahl, Bill Olson, Lois Palm, Terri Pomeroy, Betty Seastedt, Joan Sorenson, Richard Thoemke, Dick Trende, Jim Weber

THOSE SERVING OR DEPLOYED IN THE MILITARY

Scotty Krause, Charlie Richards, Peyton Massie, Cheyanne Massie, Charles Kemper

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathies and prayers of comfort and strength, for Ron Rimer and family, in the death of his daughter, Luanne. God bless and comfort them with the promise of Christ: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Piano: Skip James

Song Leader: Tracey Jenkinson

Reader: Linda James

Technical Assistants: Bill Jenkinson & Garnett Strack

Do I have to?

SUNDAY, May 17, 2020 | 8:00 AM WORSHIP

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Downtown Campus

Radio: WEVR (1550 AM/106.3 FM)
Bethel's Facebook page (facebook.com/blchudson/)

Pastor Ladd Sonnenberg, Preacher
Pastor John Lestock,
Worship Leader



"The law is neither more nor less, than an elucidation of the demands of love."