



CANTATE (“SING!”) THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Mrs. Kristen Lawson, Organist

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR BLESSED LORD! We are pleased you are here, gathered around the Gospel in Preaching and the Sacraments! **GUESTS** – If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you.

CONFESSIONAL STATEMENT: Bethany Lutheran Church confesses all the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired word of God without any errors. We also hold, without any reservation, to the teachings of the Evangelical-Lutheran Confessions contained in the 1580 Book of Concord. We confess these teachings to be the correct interpretation of Scripture and a true explanation of the one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic faith.

PASTORAL CARE AND GUESTS AT THE LORD’S SUPPER: Scripture and our Confessions teach that the Lord’s Supper “is the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine” (Small Catechism). We are concerned about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord’s Table. *If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service.* Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are active members of sister churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation. In Christ, Pastor Lawson

MAY 18, 2025 † 11:00 A. M.

† In the Name of Jesus †

Prayer before Worship: Lord God, heavenly Father, through Your Son You promised us Your Holy Spirit, that He should convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment: We beseech You, enlighten our hearts, that we may confess our sins, through faith in Christ obtain everlasting righteousness, and in all our trials and temptations retain this consolation: that Christ is Lord over the devil and death and all things, and that He will graciously deliver us out of all our afflictions, and make us forever partakers of eternal salvation; through the same, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Office of Preparation
(Confession & Holy Absolution)

***Please Note:** Once the organist begins the Prelude Music we should be quieting down and preparing for worship.*

Prelude Music

Hymn of Invocation: 350, *He's Risen, He's Risen*

**C: He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the Incarnate Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, see, and mountain the praises prolong.
Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
That Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.
Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**But short was their triumph, the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes;
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yea, He lives, and will nevermore die.
Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**O where is thy sting, death? We fear thee no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.
Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
Who sitteth in glory and ever shall reign.
Have mercy on us, Lord!**

*At the Invocation and Absolution all **may** make the sign of the †
in remembrance of their Baptism.*

The Invocation: p. 60-61

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sin (form I): pp. 60-62

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseech Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: I ask each of you, in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in His name?

C: I do.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

May He comfort your heart by His holy Absolution,
and strengthen you by His Sacraments,
that your joy may be full.

Peace be with you! **C: Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Introit

Tone 1



Antiphon (**Pastor**) Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! `Alleluia!:/ For He has done marvelous things, `Alleluia!

The LORD has made known His salvation, `Alleluia!:/ His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations, Alleluia! `Alleluia!

Psalm (**All**) **His right hand and `His holy arm:/ Have gained Him `the victory.**

He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the `house of Israel:/ All the ends of the earth have seen the salva`tion of our God.

Shout joyfully to the `LORD, all the earth:/ Break forth in song, rejoice, `and sing praises.

Gloria Patri (**All**) **Glory be to the Father `and to the Son:/ and to `the Holy Ghost.**

As it was in the be`ginning, is now:/ and ever shall be, forever`more. Amen.

Antiphon (**All**) Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! `Alleluia!:/ For He has done marvelous things, `Alleluia!

The LORD has made known His salvation, `Alleluia!:/ His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations, Alleluia! `Alleluia!

The Kyrie Eleison (form I): p. 63

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Gloria in Excelsis: pp. 64-66

P: Glory be to God on high:

C: And on earth peace, good will toward men.

**We praise You, we bless You, we worship You,
we glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory.**

O Lord God, heav'nly King,

God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

**You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy
upon us.**

**For You only are holy. You only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the
Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Salutation: p. 66

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

The Collect for the Day

P: O God, You make the minds of the faithful to be of one will: Grant unto Your people that they may love what You command, and desire what You promise; that among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may always be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament: *Isaiah 12:1-6*

P: In those days Isaiah prophesied: In that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAHWEH, the LORD, is my strength

Sequence Hymn: *The Lutheran Hymnal 187, Christ Is Arisen*

C: Christ is arisen From the grave's dark prison.

We now rejoice with gladness; Christ will end all sadness, Lord, have mercy.

**All our hopes were ended Had Jesus not ascended From the grave triumphantly,
For this, Lord Christ, we worship Thee. Lord, have mercy.**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We now rejoice with gladness;
Christ will end all sadness. Lord, have mercy.**

Holy Gospel: *St. John 16:5-15*

P: The Holy Gospel according to † St. John, the 16th chapter:

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

P: *At that time Jesus said:* “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”

P: This is the † Holy Gospel.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

*At the words “And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
And was made man” all may bow out of reverence for Christ's Incarnation.*

Nicene Creed: p. 69

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth

and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

Begotten of His Father before all worlds,

**God of God, Light of Light,
Very God of Very God,
Begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father,
By Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
*and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary
and was made man;*
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
And He shall come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead;
Whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
Who spoke by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead
and the Life † of the world to come. Amen.**

Chief Hymn: TLH 387, *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

**All Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God hath done, How His right arm the victory won;
Right dearly it hath cost Him.**

**Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay, Death brooded darkly o'er me,
Sin was my torment night and day, In sin my mother bore me;
Yea, deep and deeper still I fell, Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.**

**My own good works availed me naught, No merit they attaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought, Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair Left naught but death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.**

**But God beheld my wretched state Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of His mercies great, He planned my soul's salvation.
A father's heart He turned to me, Sought my redemption fervently:
He gave His dearest Treasure.**

**He spoke to His beloved Son: 'Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of My crown, And bring to man salvation;
From sin and sorrow set him free, Slay bitter death for him that he
May live with Thee forever.**

**This Son obeyed His Father's will, Was born of virgin mother,
And God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my Brother.
No garb of pomp or power He wore, A servant's form, like mine, He bore,
To lead the devil captive.**

**To me He spake: Hold fast to Me, I am thy Rock and Castle;
Thy Ransom I Myself will be, For thee I strive and wrestle;
For I am with thee, I am thine, And evermore thou shalt be Mine;
The Foe shall not divide us.**

**The Foe shall shed My precious blood, Me of My life bereaving.
All this I suffer for thy good; Be steadfast and believing.
Life shall from death the victory win, My innocence shall bear thy sin;
So art thou blest forever.**

**Now to My Father I depart, The Holy Spirit sending
And, heavenly wisdom to impart, My help to thee extending.
He shall in trouble comfort thee, Teach thee to know and follow Me,
And in all truth shall guide thee.**

**What I have done and taught, teach thou, My ways forsake thou never;
So shall My kingdom flourish now And God be praised forever.
Take heed lest men with base alloy The heavenly treasure should destroy;
This counsel I bequeath thee.**

Sermon: Christ Is Risen! Alleluia! **He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

Offertory: pp. 70-71

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.
Amen.**

The Intercessions: *each petition concludes:* Lord, in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Hymn of Preparation: 343, *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands, sts. 1, 5, 6, 7*

**C: Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands, For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand He stands And brings us life from heaven;
Therefore let us joyful be And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Here the true Paschal Lamb we see, Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree – So strong His love – to save us.
See, His blood doth mark our door; Faith points to it, death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia!**

**So let us keep the festival Whereto the Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the Joy of all, The Sun that warms and lights us.
By His grace He doth impart Eternal sunshine to the heart;
The night of sin is ended. Alleluia!**

**Then let us feast this Easter Day On Christ, the Bread of heaven;
The Word of Grace hath purged away The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed, He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other. Alleluia!**

The Liturgy of the Holy Communion

The Preface: p. 72

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

The Proper Preface & Sanctus: pp. 73-76

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; but chiefly are we bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for He is the very Paschal Lamb which was offered for us and hath taken away the sins of the world. By His death He has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;**
 Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He
 who come in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer: pp. 77-78

P: Our Father who art in heaven,
 Hallowed by 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;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution: pp. 78-79

*When the Pastor turns and elevates the Host and Cup, the congregation **may** bow as an act of reverent worship toward the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.*

The Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord): p. 79

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

The Agnus Dei: pp. 79-80

**C: O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
grant us Your peace. Amen.**

The Distribution of the Holy Communion to the Faithful

*Prayers for “**Before Holy Communion**” and
for “**After Holy Communion**” are found on page 40 in ELH.*

Hymn of Thanksgiving: 354, *Like the Golden Sun Ascending*, sts. 1, 2, 9, 10

**C: Like the golden sun ascending, Breaking through the gloom of night,
On the earth his glory spending So that darkness takes to flight,
Thus my Jesus from the grave And Death's dismal, dreadful cave
Rose triumphant Easter morning At the early purple dawning.**

**Thanks to Thee, O Christ victorious! Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!
Death hath now no power o'er us, Thou hast conquered in the strife.
Thanks because Thou didst arise And hast opened Paradise!
None can fully sing the glory Of the resurrection story.**

**Grant me grace, O blessed Savior, And Thy Holy Spirit send
That my walk and my behavior May be pleasing to the end;
That I may not fall again Into death's grim pit and pain,**

Whence by grace Thou hast retrieved me And from which Thou hast relieved me.

**For the joy Thy birth doth give me, For Thy holy, precious Word;
For Thy Baptism, which doth save me, For Thy blest Communion board;
For Thy death, the bitter scorn, For Thy resurrection morn,
Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee, And in heaven I shall behold Thee.**

The Collect of Thanksgiving: pp. 82-83

P: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

C: **And His mercy endures forever.**

P: Almighty God, who gives the true Bread which comes down from heaven, even Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech You, that we who received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood may abide in Him, and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His endless life; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The Salutation: p. 84

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**

The Benedicamus: p. 84

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Benediction: p. 84

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C: **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn: 353, *Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won* (Tune: 532)

C: **Jesus lives! The victo'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me.
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave He will recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! To Him the throne High o'er heav'n and earth is given.
I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God through Christ forgives offense; This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! For me He died; Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.
Freely God doth aid dispense; This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! I know full well Naught from me His love shall sever,
Life nor death nor pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be a sure defense; This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! Henceforth is death But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass the gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense, "Lord, Thou art my confidence."**

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THE PASTOR IS AVAILABLE for private Confession & Absolution, and for confidential pastoral counseling, or just to chat. Please feel free to stop in. (The Augsburg Confession teaches that "[private] Confession is not abolished among us. ... Our people are taught that they should highly prize the Absolution as being God's voice and pronounced by God's command. ... They are reminded what great consolation it brings to anxious consciences. ... They are taught that faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins." Article 25)

The Bible Study & Sunday School meet together for the opener at 12:30 in the parish hall. The Sunday study is covering the Great Flood (Genesis 6-9). The Thursday study is covering the last several chapters of 1 Chronicles in preparation for those chapters of 1 Kings that concern Solomon's reign and the construction of the Temple. *All are welcome and encouraged to attend one or both studies!*

Cleaning at Bethany
May 19-31
Susan Stevens & Dianna
Adams

Please take your household's copy of the new *Lutheran Sentinel* from the table in the church entryway. This issue addresses the question *Why Am I a Lutheran?* It includes short articles written by one pastor and several laymen testifying to what drew them to confessional Lutheranism out of whatever other denomination they came from. The two laymen who are on the board of the Bugenhagen Liturgical Institute with Pastor Lawson each have articles – Tony Verkinnis and Jeremy Aiello.



Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord: A week from Thursday (May 29), forty days after the Resurrection, the church celebrates our Lord's Ascension into heaven. The Ascension is the final triumph of our Lord and assures us of His Lordship. He ascends to the right hand of the Father to live and reign over all things for the good of His Church and to intercede for His people. He ascends to fulfill His promise to His us: *I go to prepare a place for you that where I am, there you may be also.* Ascension ranks as one of the five major feasts of the church, equal to Christmas, Epiphany, Easter and Pentecost. ***Make it your top priority to attend the Festive Divine Service at 6:00.***

Feasts, Commemorations, and Events Easter Week

Monday: Pastors' Monthly Study at Ascension Lutheran in St. Helens.

Tuesday: Pastor at Concordia

Wednesday: *Commemoration of Emperor Constantine (Christian Ruler & Holy Man) and his Mother Helen (Holy Woman);* Pastor at Bethany

Thursday: Bible Study at Bethany, 10:00am

Friday: Pastor at Bethany

Saturday: *Commemoration of OT Holy Woman, Esther;* Pastor's Day Off

Next Sunday: *Rogate: Fifth Sunday After the Resurrection*

Concordia Service of the Word, 9:00am

Bethany Holy Communion, 11:00am

Bethany Bible Study & Sunday School, 12:30pm

Youth Catechesis, 1:45pm



Why does the Sunday Mass always open with confession of sins and absolution? And what is the difference between corporate and private confession and absolution? Actually, the Mass doesn't "open" until *after* the confession and absolution. The corporate confession and the absolution then given by the pastor are preparatory to the Mass itself, which opens after the absolution, with the Introit. Corporate confession, whose technical term is the

confiteor (Latin for "I confess"), is usually introduced by an opening hymn of invocation, which calls upon God, and then the Invocation itself ("In the name of the Father," etc.). This *corporate* confession and absolution is actually an adaptation of *individual* confession and absolution, which at one time was the norm. Christian people would routinely go to the church to confess their sins *privately* before the pastor, and receive private absolution. This practice has sometimes been called "the forgotten Sacrament" because it fell into disuse in much of Lutheranism. Though corporate confession to some degree replaced it, corporate confession does not provide an opportunity for the penitent sinner to confess in particular those sins which have been grieving to his conscience, as the Catechism teaches. The Catechism speaks highly of this blessed gift, for its abiding comfort for the Christian and his tormented conscience. In recent years there have been attempts to recover the practice of private confession. Some newer hymnals provide brief liturgical formats for individual (or private) confession. *Why? A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy, Rev. Dr. Burnell F. Eckardt*

Easter 5: The people of Christ do not sit still or stay silent. We shout, sing, praise, and bless (Psalm 98). May we each raise our Gospel-motivated voice For Life to advocate against death as the ultimate consequence of sinfulness (James 1:15) and to celebrate every neighbor from the youngest to the oldest among us (James 1:27) as a good gift from the loving Father (James 1:17).

Prayer: O God, help us to speak out and act against the culture of death we live in and celebrate with joy Your good gift of life. Amen.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year/One Year Lectionary – Lutherans For Life