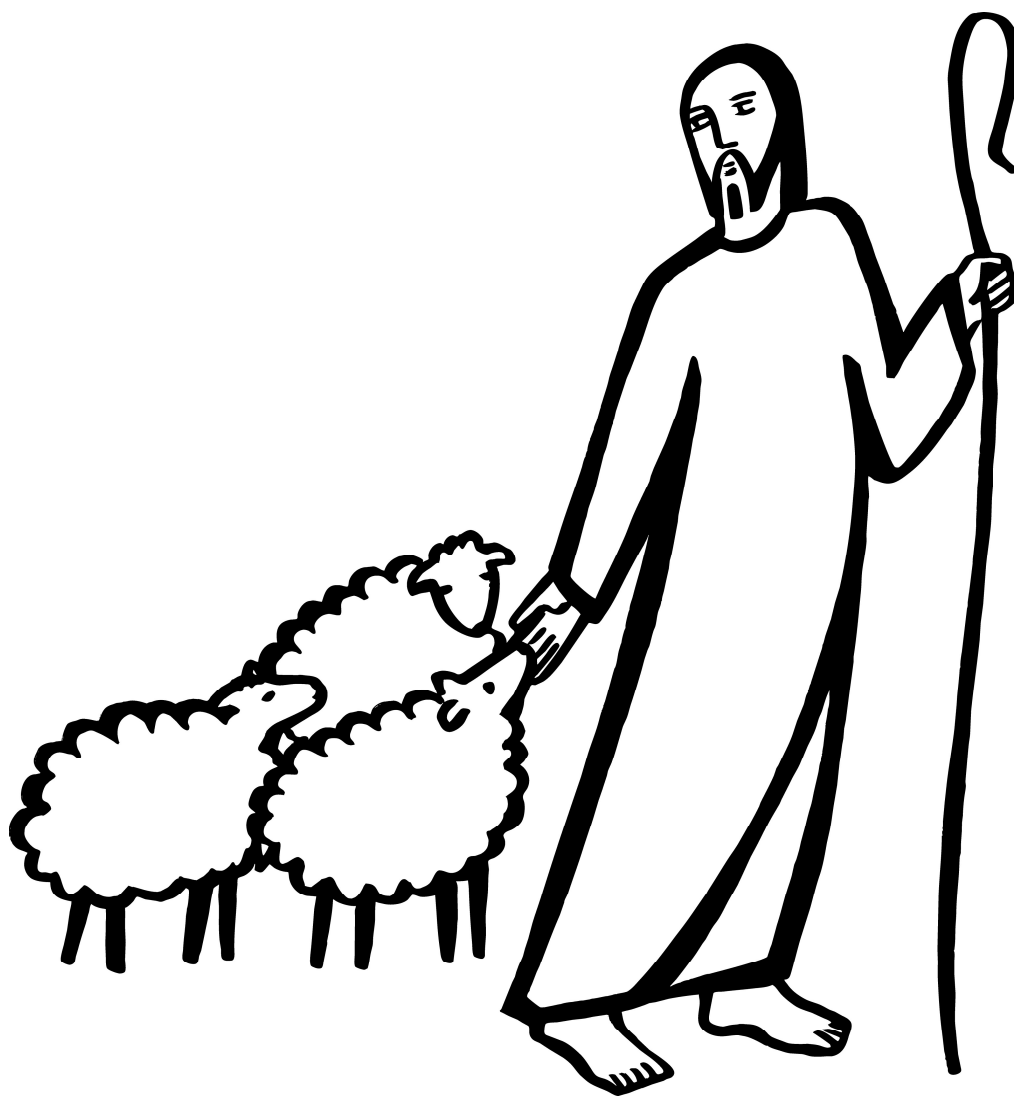




Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church

A place of healing and reconciliation in Christ



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

✠ May 11, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. ✠

✠ GATHERING ✠

**THE ASTERISK INDICATES WHEN THE ASSEMBLY RISES THROUGHOUT THE WORSHIP SERVICE.*

PRELUDE

Tyler Pyle

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

One Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Many **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

One In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Many **Amen.**

One Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.
Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

Many **make us one as you are one.**

One We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

Many **make us one as you are one.**

One We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

Many **make us one as you are one.**

One Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Many **Amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

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

Many And also with you.

KYRIE

Now the Feast | p. 3

Leader
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
For the reign of God, and for
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the
Lord. For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo-ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your
word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have
Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.
mer-cy. A-men.

NOW THE FEAST

Now the Feast | p. 4

Refrain
Now the feast and cel-e-bra-tion, all of cre-a-tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo-ry for-ev-er-more!
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u-nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and
Refrain

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of
Refrain

God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Many O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING | ACTS 9:36-4

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

One Word of God, Word of Life
Many **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM CANTICLE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | ELW 502

SECOND READING | REVELATION 7: 9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

One Word of God, Word of Life
Many **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
 go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
 life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

One The holy Gospel according to John.
 Many **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL | JOHN 10:22-30

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

One The holy Gospel of our Lord.
 Many **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pr. Grant Vanderford

HYMN OF THE DAY

In the Midst of Earthly Life | ACS 1026



1 In the midst of earth - ly life fear and death be - set us;
2 In the midst of death's dark vale, shade and still af - fright us;
3 In the midst of deep de - spair, bane and bat - tle taunt us;



who at - tends and hears our cry, who does not for - get us?
who will light us through the pale, com - fort us and guide us?
is there not a ref - uge, where ter - ror can - not haunt us?



You on - ly, God, you on - ly. In you our fore - bears put their trust,
You on - ly, God, you on - ly. To you our fore - bears cried in need;
In you, O Christ, you on - ly, with glo - ry from God's lov - ing face,



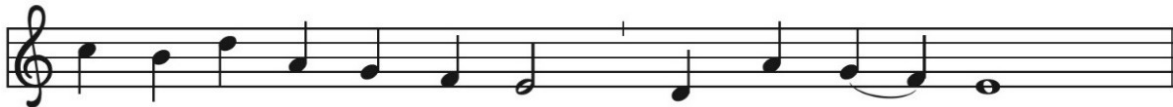
hoped in you and were not crushed. Ho - ly and righ - teous God!
you, God, were their light in - deed. Ho - ly and righ - teous God!
and the Spir - it's peace - ful ways. Ho - ly and righ - teous God!



Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful
Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful
Ho - ly and might - y God! Ho - ly and all - mer - ci - ful



Sav - ior! Ev - er - last - ing God! Though death would tor - ment us,
Sav - ior! Ev - er - last - ing God! Though de - spair would smite us,
Sav - ior! Ev - er - last - ing God! Though the grave would daunt us,



let us not sink in the dust. Lord, have mer - cy.
let us not its shad - ow heed. Lord, have mer - cy.
safe we shel - ter in your gaze. Lord, have mer - cy.

*NICENE CREED

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 PEOPLE

One Hear us, O God.

Many **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

One The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

Many **And also with you.**

✠ MEAL ✠

NOISY OFFERING

OFFERING

AN OFFERING IS GATHERED FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, INCLUDING THE CARE OF THOSE IN NEED. YOU MAY PLACE YOUR OFFERING IN THE PLATES AS THEY ARE PASSED BY THE USHERS. YOU MAY ALSO SCAN THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT FOR ONLINE GIVING.



MUSICAL OFFERING

*AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Now the Feast | p. 10

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

One Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.

Many Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Now the Feast | p. 11

Presider: *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

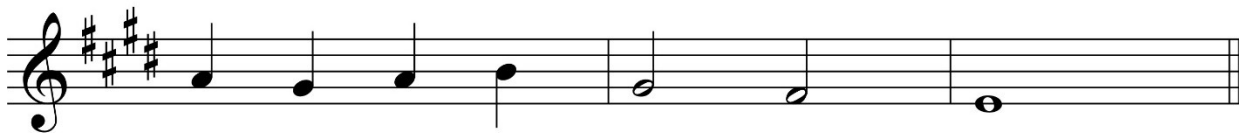


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

*HOLY

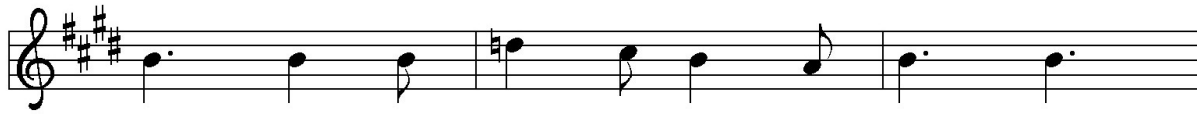
Now the Feast | p. 11



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

One ... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

One ... all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

***Many* Amen, amen, amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

LAMB OF GOD

Now the Feast | p. 14

Congregation:

Congregation or Assistant:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
Holy God, We Praise Your Name

ELW 843
ELW 414

THANKS BE TO YOU

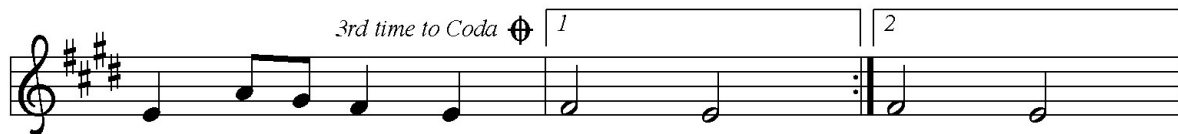
Now the Feast | p. 15



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim
your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

Many Amen.

BLESSING

One The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

Many Amen.

† SENDING †

*SENDING HYMN

For All Your Saints, O Lord | ELW 825

*DISMISSAL

One Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Many Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Tyler Pyle

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, SOURCES, & PERMISSIONS

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SERVING TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER PASTOR GRANT VANDERFORD
ASSISTING MINISTER TOMMY COSTIN
READER EDDIE BERNHARDSON
COMMUNION SERVERS BECKY ERICKSON
DAN WESTPHAL

MUSICIAN TYLER PYLE
CHOIR DIRECTOR SAM SADLOWSKY
ALTAR GUILD SHANNON VANDERFORD
COUNCIL PERSON ON DUTY AARON WENAAS
CAMERA KRISTIN OHREN

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ MAY 11 - MAY 17 ✠

TODAY:	9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	WORSHIP COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
MONDAY:	10:00 A.M. 11:30-5:30 P.M.	LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY OFFICE HOURS
TUESDAY:	11:30-5:30 P.M. 7:00 P.M.	OFFICE HOURS COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY:	9 A.M. 11:30-5:30 P.M. 6 P.M. 7 P.M.	QUILTING OFFICE HOURS BELLS REHEARSAL CHOIR REHEARSAL
THURSDAY:	11:30-5:30 P.M. 3:45 P.M.	OFFICE HOURS BAS CHAPEL
FRIDAY:	ALL DAY 9 P.M.	OFFICE CLOSED NA MEETING