

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2017



BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Joel F. Kluender

Vicki Fronk, Preschool Director

bethanylutherangibsonia.com

Office: 724-443-3890/Cell: (724) 810-1813

5155 N. Pioneer Rd., Gibsonia (Hampton Twp.), PA 15044

HYMN— #141—*At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

(Continues on next page.)

You are seated at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -
 ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON

Acts 17:1-12 (EHV)

¹When Paul and Silas had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ²As was his custom, Paul went to the Jews, and on three Sabbath days he led them in a discussion from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. He also said, "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." ⁴Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great number of God-fearing Greeks and more than a few of the prominent women.

⁵But the Jews became jealous and gathered from the marketplace some wicked men, who formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house and searched for Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the mob. ⁶When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men, who have stirred up trouble all over the world, have come here too, ⁷and Jason has welcomed them as guests! They are all acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, Jesus!" ⁸The crowd and the city officials were stirred up when they heard these things. ⁹They took a security bond from Jason and the others and then let them go.

¹⁰That same night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians. They received the word very eagerly and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these things were so.

¹²Many of them believed, along with more than a few prominent Greek women and men.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 33

Refrain

The earth is full of the good-ness of
God, the good-ness of our God.

Psalm tone

Psalm tone

Refrain

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;^{*}
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
For the Word of the LORD is right and true;^{*}
he is faithful in all he does.
By the word of the LORD were the heavens made,^{*}
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
For he spoke, and it came to be;^{*}
he commanded, and it stood firm.

Refrain

The LORD foils the plans of the nations;^{*}
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever;^{*}

the purposes of his heart through all generations.
The LORD loves righteousness and justice;^{*}
the earth is full of his unfailing love.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son^{*}
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,^{*}
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:4-10 (EHV)

⁴As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion, A chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

⁷Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, and a stone over which they stumble and a rock over which they fall.

⁸Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

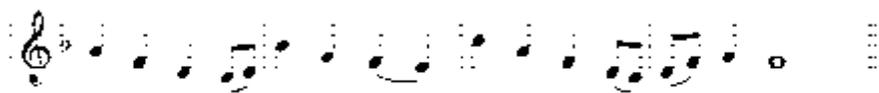
VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia. (*John 14:6*)

STAND

GOSPEL

John 14:1-12 (EHV)



Glo-ry be to you. O Lord! Glo-ry be to you. O Lord!

¹ "Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. ⁴ You know where I am going, and you know the way."

⁵ "Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

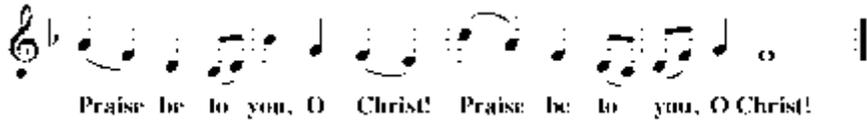
⁷ If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ "Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that is enough for us."

⁹ "Have I been with you so long," Jesus answered, "and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves.

¹²“Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY #356—*You Are the Way; through You Alone*

SERMON (*sermon text John 14:6, 7*)

"Jesus Is The Only Way"

STAND



CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate In me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

C: Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

C: Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer.

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

C: Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

BE SEATED

HYMN #343—*Christ Is the World's Light*

STAND

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN — #367—*Christ Be My Leader*

REFORMATION

GRACE. FAITH. SCRIPTURE.



500

2017 Reformation Festival Service

hosted by the WELS Ohio Conference
Saturday November 4, 2017 at 3:00pm, with dinner following
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

2017 Reformation Festival Service

Saturday November 4, 2017 at 3:00pm, with dinner following
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

2017 IS A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

Why? Because 500 years ago, on October 31, 1517, a man named Martin Luther posted 95 theses on a church door. And that was just the beginning. Those theses marked the beginning of a turn back to God's Word, and a return to faith in God's grace alone in Christ Jesus alone as our confidence for salvation.

One way WELS churches in Ohio are celebrating is by holding a joint service on the Saturday after that historic anniversary. It will be a celebration with Word and Sacrament of the heritage that is ours because of Martin Luther's return to God's grace and God's Word 500 years ago. And it will be a wonderful reminder that you stand united in faith with many people you may have never met before.

COME SING IN THE CHOIR

We're planning to have a mass choir of as many WELS members as would like to lift their voices together to praise our Savior. Talk to the choir director at your church in fall 2017 for more information.

BRASS & WOODWIND ENSEMBLE

We know God has blessed our churches with all kinds of musical gifts, so we've been picking out music for this service that includes brass and woodwind parts. If you'd like to be considered for our brass & woodwind ensemble, send an email to Elisabeth Wagner at: elisabethswagner@gmail.com by June 1st.

GIVE A GIFT TO HELP MAKE THIS EVENT A REALITY

We have a grant from the WELS Michigan District to cover the costs of the service, but we could use help to defray the cost of the meal. If you'd like to give a gift, talk to your pastor to find out how.



News And Notes

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME!

Welcome to worship! We consider it a privilege to have you worship with us today. Guests, if there is anything we can do to make your worship more meaningful, please do not hesitate to ask us. Pastor, the ushers, and all members of our Bethany family stand ready to serve you. May the Lord bless your worship!

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

A special "thank you" to those who served their Lord by serving us this morning, our violinists, our organist, and our ushers. Thank you for edifying and beautifying our worship with your service.

PASTOR KLUENDER OUT OF TOWN THIS WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY

This Wednesday through Friday, Pastor will be out of town with Jennifer and Samuel celebrating their birthdays. During this time, if there are any issues or concerns, please contact one of Bethany's elders, who are able to contact Pastor in the event of an urgent matter. THANK YOU :)

LAST WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

In last Sunday's worship, 42 people were fed and strengthened by the Word of God and 28 received Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

LAST MONTH'S (AND YEAR TO DATE) STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFT OF MONEY

In the month of April, Bethany received income (preschool tuition, offerings and interest) of \$24,728.66. Please note: this included an anonymous, special offering of \$15,000 to the preschool. Going forward, because of the closing of the preschool, we will not be receiving such special donations. Please note: the donor was aware of the closing of the preschool and understands that any surplus that might remain after preschool obligations are met may be redirected to the general fund or elsewhere, as directed by the council.

For reference, our monthly budgeted income is \$9,877.50. Total expenses for April were \$8,137.71. As you can see, God truly blessed us in the month of April with a significant surplus both relative to budget and to expenses. We are thankful that God has allowed us to now have a year to date income/expense surplus of \$4,143.12 for the congregation as a whole.

What should be our response to this unexpected blessing? (1) We give thanks and praise to God who moved the heart of the anonymous donor through his Gospel; (2) We immerse ourselves in the Gospel and seek to maintain our budget as a congregation going forward as God himself gives us the ability and willingness to spread the news of the Gospel! Thank you, Jesus!

Our Walk For God

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY...

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
15	16 <i>7:00p Bible Study</i>	17 <i>Pastor out of town</i> <i>Happy birthday Denise Varisco!</i>	18 <i>Pastor out of town</i> <i>Happy birthday Sam & Jennifer Kluender!</i>	19 <i>Pastor out of town</i>	20 <i>Happy birthday Nathan Verlinden!</i>	21 <i>9:00a Sunday School & Adult Bible Study</i> <i>10:30a Worship</i> <i>12:10p Catechism</i>

Serving next Sunday: Altar: Stadler; Greeter: Schult; Ushers: Team; C/G