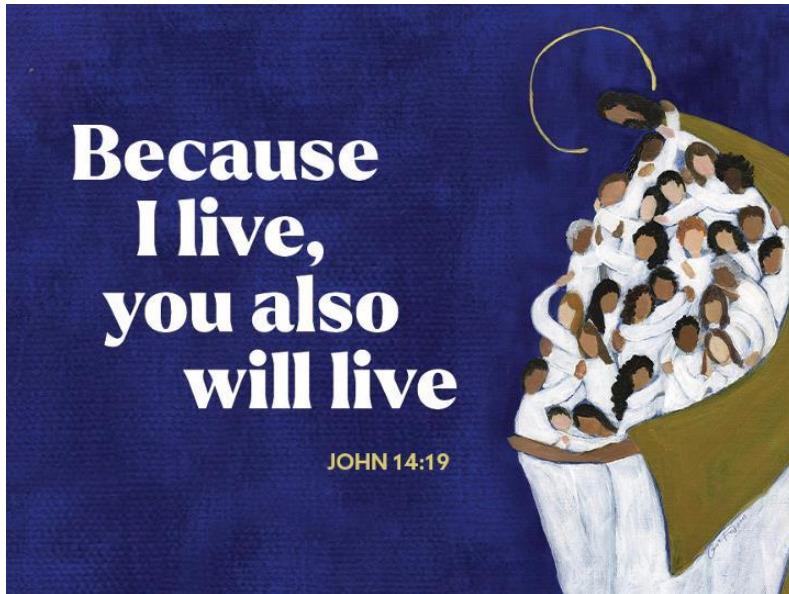




SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026



Introduction

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS (ELW #396)


Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness




call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,




stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.




then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

Refrain



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND MOTHER'S DAY LITANY

Leader: Come, people of God, gather together under the shelter of God's love.

People: We come seeking comfort, like children held close.

Leader: As a mother comforts her child, so God comforts us.

People: We come to be held, restored, and renewed.

Leader: Christ longs to gather us, like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

People: We come to rest in the safety of God's care.

Leader: God says, "I have engraved you on the palms of my hands."

People: We come, knowing we are never forgotten.

Leader: Today we give thanks for mothers, for those who have carried and nurtured life.

People: We thank you, O God, for their love and sacrifice.

Leader: We give thanks for women who nurture in ways beyond biology; through teaching, mentoring, guiding, and loving.

People: We honor the many ways your care is shared through them.

Leader: We remember women who long to have children but cannot, and those who have known the pain of loss.

People: Hold them in your compassion, O God.

Leader: We honor women who have chosen a path with bearing children, whose lives are full of purpose, service, and love.

People: We celebrate their gifts and their calling.

Leader: We give thanks for spiritual mothers, those who have shaped our faith and pointed us to Christ.

People: Bless them, O God, for their witness and care.

Leader: In all these ways, we see reflections of your heart, your compassion, your protection, your faithful love.

People: Gather us in, O God, and make us instruments of your care.

Leader: Come, people of God, rest in the comfort of the One who loves you like a mother and holds you like a child.

People: We come to worship the God who gathers, comforts, and never forgets us. Amen.

APOSTOLIC 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

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

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Leader: For the Reign of God, and for peace through-out the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Leader: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Leader: Help, save, and defend us, O God.

All: Amen

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, ©1990 GIA Publications Inc.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“I GIVE YOU MY HEART”

Music and lyrics Reuben Morgan

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Administrators Hillsong Music Publishing USA

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READINGS

ISAIAH 49:14–16

“But Zion said, ‘The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.’ ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.’”

ISAIAH 66:12–13

“For this is what the Lord says: ‘I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.’”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jesus, Jesus Holy and anointed one, Jesus
Jesus, Jesus Risen and exalted one, Jesus
Your name is like honey on my lips
Your Spirit like water to my soul.
Your word is a lamp unto my feet.
Jesus, I love You, I love You.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 23:37

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 23rd Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jesus, Jesus Holy and anointed one, Jesus
Jesus, Jesus Risen and exalted one, Jesus
Your name is like honey on my lips
Your Spirit like water to my soul.
Your word is a lamp unto my feet.
Jesus, I love You, I love You.

SERMON

THE MOTHERING HEART OF GOD

PASTOR DAVE YOUNG

1. **Where do you most need God’s comfort right now?** Isaiah describes God comforting “as a mother comforts her child.” What would it look like for you to *receive* that kind of care?
2. **How can you reflect the “mothering heart of God” to others this week?** Where are you being called to offer comfort, protection, or presence?

HYMN OF THE DAY

“SALT AND LIGHT”

Music and Lyrics Jan L’Ecuyer

© 2002 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music Administrators Integrity Music

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with “Merciful God” and the response will be **“receive our prayer”**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF EDIE DONOVAN

SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE

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

————— MEAL —————

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ongoing ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! In-person gifts may be placed in the offering plates, mailed to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (2077 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603), given online at www.bethelwinchester.com or using the adjacent QR code.



MUSIC FOR REFLECTION – I KNOW A NAME – Darline / Mel and Choir, Piano

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT (ELW #465)

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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!

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is in 6/8 time, the second in 3/8, and the third in 6/8. The fourth and fifth staves are in 6/8 time. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

JESUS WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION LORD'S PRAYER

Our God _____ in heav-en, _____ ho - ly is your name, _____ your
reign come, _____ your will done, _____ on earth as in heav-en _____
Give us today our dai-ly bread, and help us forgive as we have been for - giv-en _____
In the time of tri-al _____ lead us in - to light, _____ for yours is _____ the

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is in 6/8 time, the second in 6/8, the third in 6/8, and the fourth in 6/8. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

king-dom, ___ and the power, ___ and the glo-ry, ___ for - ev - er. Our
 God, ___ in heav-en, ___ ho-ly is your name, ho-ly is your name.

Words: Matthew 6:9-13; adapt by Mark A Miller and Laurie Zelman Music: Mark A Miller Adapt and music ©2008 Abingdon Press admin by the Copyright Company

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome to the Lord's Table!

Everyone, regardless of age and denomination, is invited to join us for Holy Communion. If you prefer a blessing, simply inform the communion distributors. The ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

You will receive the bread from the first Holy Communion distributor. You will pick up the cup of wine or juice from the tray held by the second distributor. For those who need gluten free a pre-packaged **gluten-free wafer** and a cup of **grape juice** is also available.

Once you have communed, you are invited to return to your seat for silent reflection or singing

LAMB OF GOD

1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
 have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
 grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“AMAZING LOVE”

Music and lyrics Graham Kendrick
© 1989 Make Way Music Administrator Music Services, Inc.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“NEW DAY”

Music and lyrics: Janna Long, Tedd Tjornhom, Lydia Gott and Jody McBrayer
©2003 Birdwing Music Janna Long Designee, Jody McBrayer designee
Meaux Hits Tedasia Music and EMS Songs Inc. Admin by BMI Christian Music Publishing

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

We hope every person felt welcomed here, especially our guests. We trust that our time together has filled you with a sense of joy and peace, and we invite you to return soon.

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