



SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026



Introduction

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

“AIN’T NO GRAVE”

Music and lyrics: Cageless Birds & Molly Skaggs
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Call to Worship

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: Beloved of God, through water and the Word,
we have been claimed, forgiven, and made new.

People: We are children of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Leader: We gather this day in gratitude and hope, celebrating journeys of learning and journeys of faith.

People: We come with thankful hearts, remembering where God has brought us.

Leader: For graduates who stand at the threshold of new beginnings,
and for confirmands affirming the promises of faith—

People: We rejoice in God’s guidance, steadfast love, and faithful presence.

Leader: We give you thanks for this community of faith, where we are taught, nurtured, and sustained.

People: Help us to support one another in faith and life.

Leader: For families, mentors, teachers, and this community of faith—

People: We give thanks for the support, encouragement, and love shared along the way.

Leader: Help us continue to nurture and walk alongside one another.

People: So that all may grow in faith, hope, and love.

Leader: Lead us to live out our baptismal calling each day—

People: To serve all people, following the example of Christ.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord, who calls us forward in faith.

People: Let us worship God with joy and trust!

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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

GRADUATE QUILT RECOGNITION - Katherine Elise Freilich - University of Virginia
Mia Scout Hudson - Frostburg State University
Sarah O'Neal Newman - East Tennessee State University
Adilyn Paige Sikora - Appalachian State University
Micah David Young - University of Massachusetts (Amherst)

LITANY FOR GRADUATES

Leader: Gracious God, we give you thanks for these graduates, for their growth in knowledge, discipline, and perseverance.

People: For the gifts you have nurtured within them, we give you thanks and praise.

Leader: For the teachers, mentors, families, and communities who have guided and supported them along the way—

People: We thank you for every encouragement, challenge, and act of care.

Leader: As they step into new vocations and callings, into places both familiar and unknown—

People: Go before them, O Lord, and guide their paths.

Leader: Wherever they go, remind them of their identity in Christ—

People: That they are your beloved, marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Leader: In their work, their study, their relationships, and their daily lives—

People: Call them to serve their neighbor with compassion, courage, and joy.

Leader: When they face uncertainty, transition, or doubt—

People: Anchor them in their faith, your Word, and strengthen them by your Spirit.

Leader: In success, keep them humble and thankful—

People: In challenge, keep them steadfast and hopeful.

Leader: When they are tempted to measure their worth by achievement—

People: Remind them that their value rests in your grace alone.

Leader: Surround them with communities that encourage faith and belonging—

People: And lead them back to your people, where they are nourished and sent.

Leader: In all things, teach them to trust your promises—

People: And to live boldly as witnesses to your love in the world.

Leader: Into your hands, O God, we commend these graduates,
trusting in your mercy and steadfast love—

People: **Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

CONFIRMATION FAITH STATEMENTS

Sophia Barna, Elias Carlson, Lily Cupp, Ella Fisher, Rowan Hudson, Kynlee Sikora, Leah Young

HYMN OF THE DAY

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE (ELW #677)



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

CONFIRMATION LITURGY

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these confirmands*, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism;

Sophia Barna, Elias Carlson, Lily Cupp, Ella Fisher, Rowan Hudson, Kynlee Sikora, and Leah Young

Merciful God, we thank you for *these confirmands*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called *them* to yourself, enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished *them* in the community of faith. Uphold them in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father? **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each confirmand answers: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support *Sophia, Elias, Lily, Ella, Rowan, Kynlee, and Leah* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Let us rejoice with the newly confirmed in Christ. **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

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 – NEVER BEEN MORE CERTAIN – Michelle Davies, Soloist

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!

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
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.

Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen ©1990 GIA Publications Inc. Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen

COMMUNION HYMN

AMAZING GRACE (ELW #779)



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton 1725-1807 alt sts 1-4 anonymous at 5 Music: New Britain W. Walker Sothern Harmony 1835 arr Edwin O Escelet 1851-1921

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER (ELW #471)



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

“LORD I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH”

Music and lyrics: Rick Founds

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Administrators Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.

“GREAT IS OUR GOD”

Music and lyrics: Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves

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Administrators Capitol CMG Publishing, Reservoir Media Management, Inc.

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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