

Bethel Lutheran Church

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

DR. PEGGY TERHUNE, S.A.M., MINISTER
Cathy Williams, Organist

355 East Ridge Road Salisbury NC 28144
Phone: 704-636-0331

CHURCH WEBSITE
WIFI Bethel Guest

Bethelsalisbury.org
password **Lutheran**

ENTER TO WORSHIP – LEAVE TO SERVE
“Holy Communion Setting Three”

**Congregation Stands*
Congregation responses in bold

WELCOME

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing .by Kerr

Opening Response

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain! Alleluia!
He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!

Rejoice then, even in your distress.
We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

God has claimed us as his own.
God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

***BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free**

ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. To the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

*Gathering Song

“You are the Way”

by Bisbee

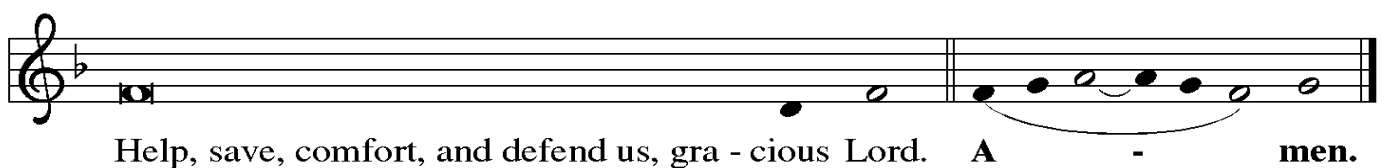
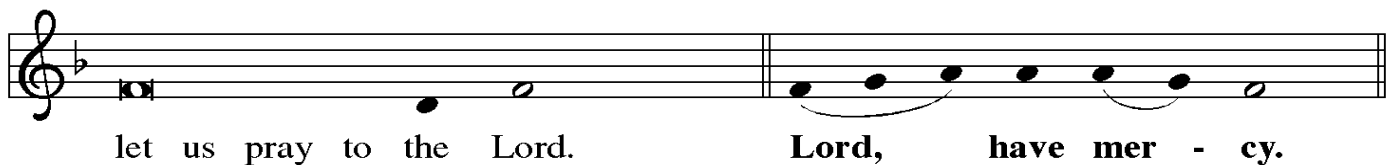
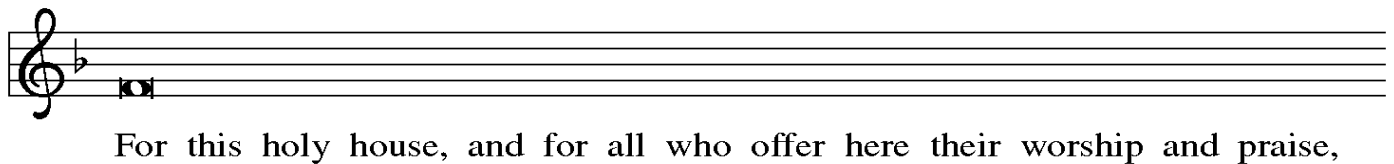
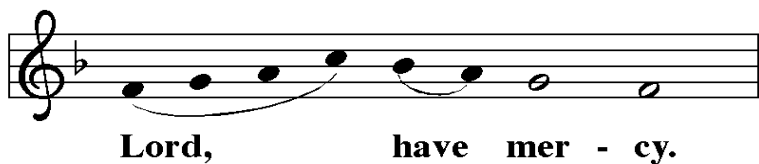
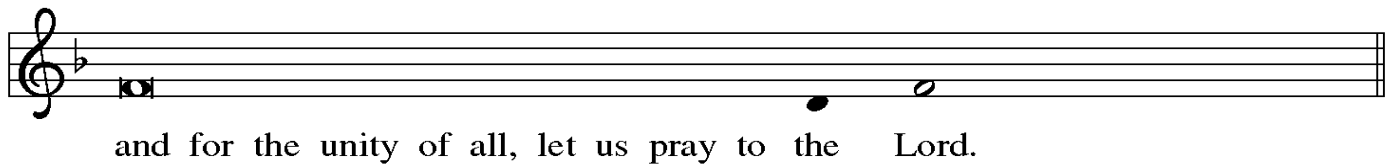
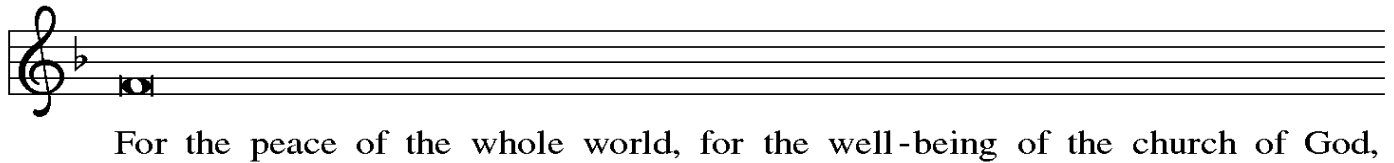
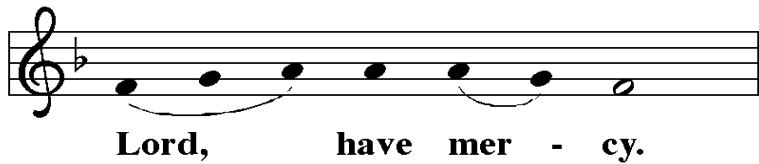
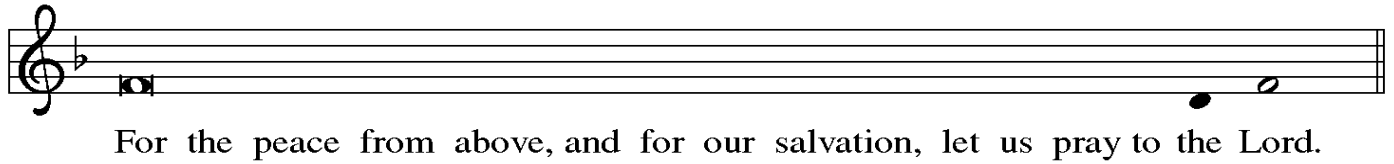
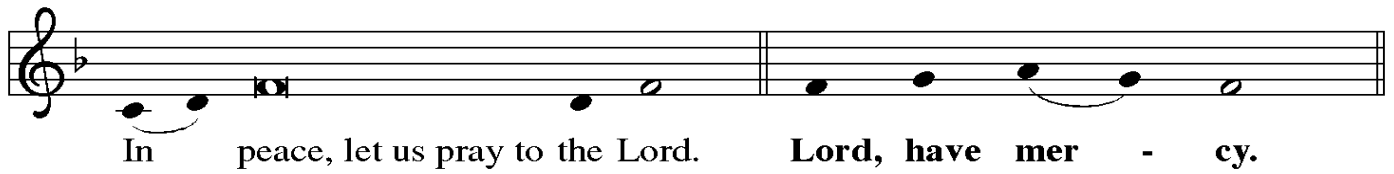
ELW #758



***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



This Is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



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***Prayer of the Day** Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

WORD

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

A reading from the seventh chapter of Acts

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Congregation will read responsively

- ¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.
- ² **Incline your | ear to me; make haste to de- | liver me.**
- ³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my
stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.
- ⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me, for you are my
tow- | er of strength.**
- ⁵ Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit, for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, | God of truth.
- ¹⁵ **My times are | in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and
from those who | persecute me.**
- ¹⁶ Let your face shine up- | on your servant; save me in your | steadfast love.”

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from the second chapter of 1 Peter

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”

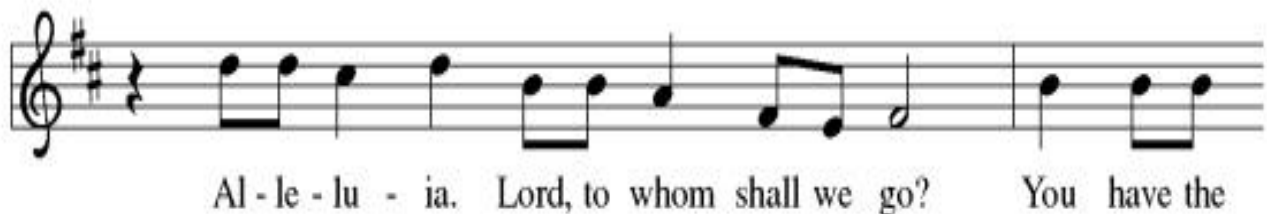
⁸ and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



*Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. 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 will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Judy Hoffman

Sermon

Dr. Peggy Terhune

*Hymn of the Day “O Jesus I Have Promised” intro by Hopson ELW #810

***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 Intercession**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents

of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick (*especially*). Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace is Shared

The Peace of Christ be with you always **and also with you.**

Christian Fellowship is one of the most blessed gifts given to us by our God. Please take a moment to greet those around you and extend to them the peace of Christ.

The congregation is seated.

Offering

Anthem “The Chief Cornerstone” by Ellingboe Adult Choir

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a
har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

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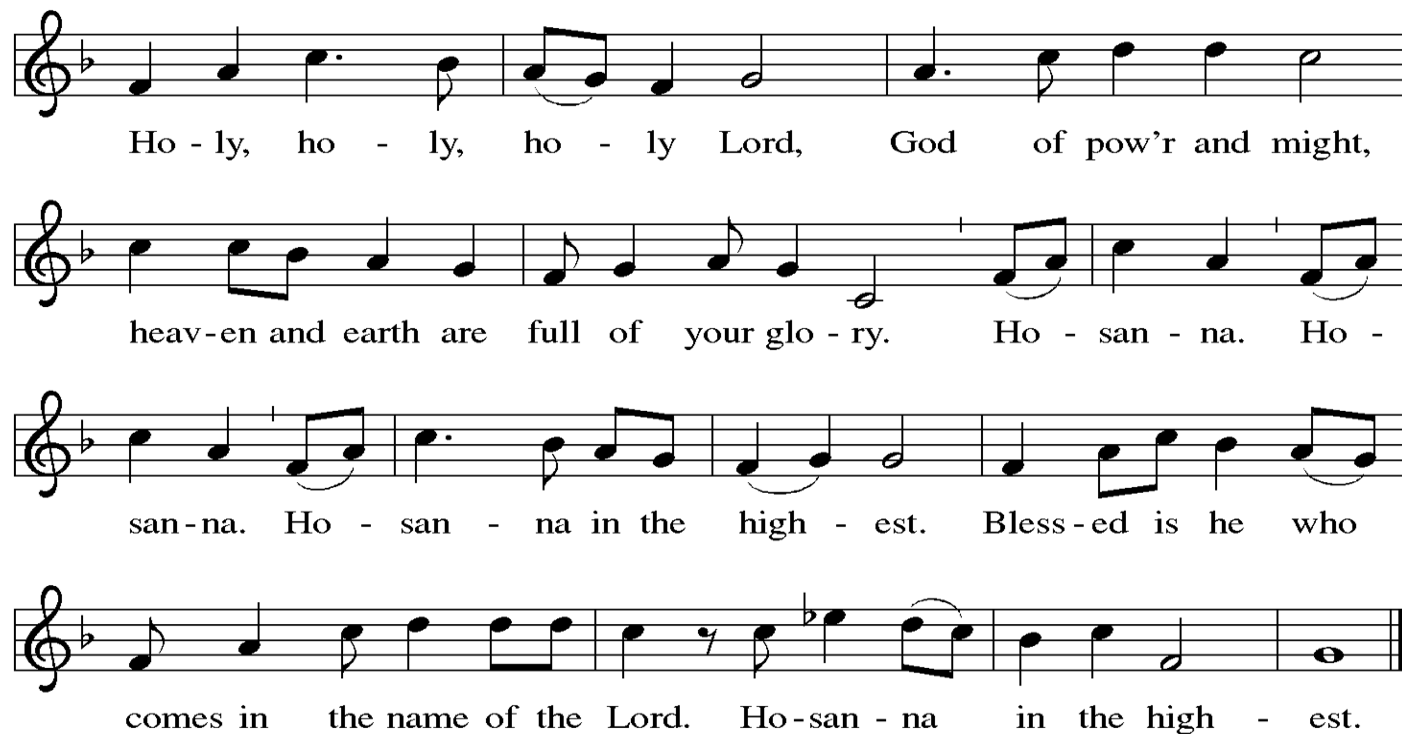
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Offertory Prayer Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places to give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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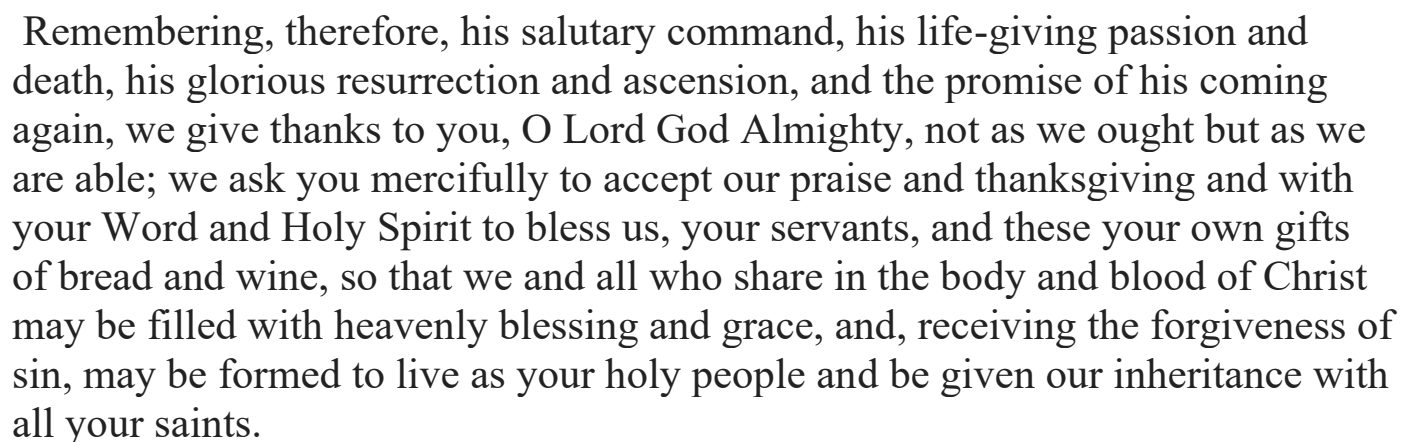
You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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



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.



Communion music “Come My Way, My Truth, My Life” by Heaton
 “As the Grains of Wheat” ELW #465

***Post-Communion Prayer** 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. **Amen.**

***Blessing** 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. **Amen.**

***Sending Song** “Chris Is Alive! Let Christians Sing” ELW #389
 intro by Drews

***Dismissal** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
 Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Postlude

*Our worship service has ended.
Our worship through service begins.*

TRUST
in the
Lord
with
ALL
your
Heart
Proverbs 3:5

HOMEBOUND/HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME

Betty Shuping	Home of Daughter, 336-513-4035
Katrina Kurfees	Home of Daughter,
Linda Plummer	Trinity Oaks Health & Rehab., Memory Unit
Peggy Swicegood	Continue prayers
Carolyn Hicks	Continue prayers
Marcia Miller	Recuperating at her home
Eric & Dawn Leach	Continue prayers
Danny Norman	Continue prayers (brother of Ellen Webb)
Robert & Gathel Meachem	Brookdale, Room 34, 2201 Statesville Blvd.
Cody McDowell	Continue prayers
Eddie Rabon	Recuperating at his home
Amber Trexler	Continue prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome everyone to Bethel Lutheran Church. We are glad you have joined us for worship and bid a special welcome to guests in our midst. May you find peace, comfort, strength, and hope as our Lord comes to us in his word. Please take a moment to register your attendance by signing your name to the fellowship pad as it is passed in each pew.

Today, we will celebrate Holy Communion and wish to share the following with you. Holy Communion is offered to all baptized believers, regardless of denomination or home church. Lutherans believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the meal we call Holy Communion. (ELCA.FAQ) in the principal service of Christian worship, the Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace – the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2006)

Here at Bethel Lutheran Church:

- The ushers will direct you forward to the communion table. If you prefer to receive communion in your seat, simply share your wish with one of the ushers.

- You are not required to kneel and may be more comfortable standing.
- Grape juice is offered in the center of each tray. (The majority of the cups contain wine).
- After you have communed, the pastor will dismiss your table.
- Children who have not received communion training are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing.

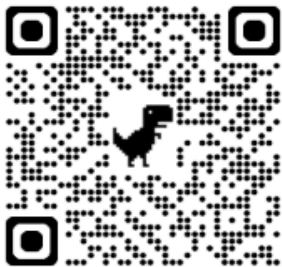
The Eternal Flame for May is given to the Glory of God by Mike and Monica Raney in loving memory of Monica's mother, grandmother, and "the girls".

The Contemporary Service planned for today has been postponed.

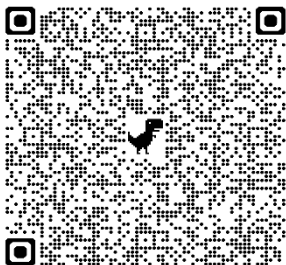
The Blessing Box continues to be a steady source of activity. Please remember this outreach when you're grocery shopping for your family.

The next open date of Laura's Children's Closet will be Saturday, May 16th from 10 until 12:00 pm. Share this information with anyone who may have need.

Worship and Outreach committee will meet Saturday, May 16th at 1pm



This QR code is created to be a quick link the bethelsalisbury.org website



Online Offertory Donations - If you would prefer to make offertory donations online please visit the church website (bethelsalisbury.org), or scan the QR code below that will take you directly to our online giving page. (There is a small fee associated with this service).

Be sure to check your mailbox

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Fifth Sunday of Easter

TODAY:	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:45 a.m.	Choir Practice
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service/Holy Communion
MON:	6:00 p.m.	No WELCA meeting this month
TUES:	6:30 p.m.	LMIM dinner mtg. (<i>Carroll's shop</i>)
THURS:	9:30 a.m.	JOY Ringers Practice

NEXT SUNDAY: **Sixth Sunday of Easter May 10**

	8:30 a.m.	Church Council mtg
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:45 a.m.	Choir Practice
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
THURS:	9:30 a.m.	JOY Ringers Practice



Thankful
grateful
blessed

Attendance/Contribution Information for 4/26/2026

Worship Service 44

	Given 04/26/2026	Given Year to Date	Needed Weekly to Attain Budget
Current	\$2,502.00	\$44,562.80	\$ 2,630.00
Benevolence	\$25.00	\$2,125.00	\$ 77.00
Building Improvement	\$55.00	\$910.00	

BETHEL'S MINISTERS

PASTOR:	Dr. Peggy Terhune, Synodical Approved Minister
CONTACT INFO	Phone - 704 305-0752 Email - peggy.terhune@gmail.com Members of Bethel Lutheran Church
MINISTERS:	Cathy Williams
ORGANIST:	Kara Thurston
INTERIM CHOIR DIRECTOR:	Martha Graham 704 202-9362
CHURCH SECRETARY:	Todd Corriher 704 433-6729
2026 COUNCIL CHAIRMAN	Dave Hincemon and Lora Owen
ONE CHURCH/ONE CHILD COORD:	704-636-0331
CHURCH PHONE:	parishadmin@bethellutheranofSalisbury.com
CHURCH E-MAIL:	bethelsalisbury.org
WEBSITE	
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ASSISTING MINISTERS

LECTOR:	Mike Raney
ACOLYTE:	Samuel Thurston
CRUCIFER:	Lora Owen
COUNCIL HOST:	Mike Spry
COMMUNION ASSISTANT:	Mike Spry
ALTAR GUILD:	Judy VonCanon, Diane Brandon, Julia Hibbard
USHERS:	Perry VonCanon, Capt.; Judy VonCanon Al & Diane Brandon, Anita Vinson



Bethel Lutheran Church Praising and serving God since 1851