

Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

9:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.bethanialutheran.org/bulletins/>

**Order of Worship
for
Sunday, April 28, 2024**

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come to the vineyard of God.

C: **We seek Christ, the vine of great love.**

P: Drink from the waters of life.

C: **We live in the light of God's grace.**

P: Come to the vineyard of God.

C: **All are welcome here.**

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

“There In God's Garden” # 668 verses 1-4

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

SALUTATION

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

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

(Please be seated)

WORD

OUR FIRST LESSON is from the book of **Acts**; chapter 8, verses 26 through 40.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of

the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of First John, chapter 4, verses 7 through 21 .

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of

judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us.

²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

Jesus said: ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

“Like The Murmur Of A Dove's Song ” #685

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

EASTER UNISON PRAYER

P: Let Us Pray,

**C: O God of Easter joy,
we come this morning
with glad shouts of acclamation.**

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed.

**May this time of worship
help us to truly and fully experience this Risen Christ.**

May we be transformed.

**transformed into your butterfly people,
winging through the earth
with messages of beauty, hope and life.**

Amen.

PRAYER SONG

(WOV# 751)

○ Lord, hear my prayer,

○ Lord, hear my prayer:

when I call, answer me.

○ Lord, hear my prayer,

○ Lord, hear my prayer:

come and listen to me.

PRAYERS

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

P: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters . Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering especially Jeff & Sue, Bonnie, Heather, Anita, Grete, Bettie, Kim F. and all those we name in our hearts. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

(WOV# 751)

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.

SHARING OF THE PEACE (1 John 4, John 15)

P: Abiding in Christ's love, let us turn to one another and offer signs of forgiveness, love and peace.

(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with one another)

OFFERTORY

(WOV #761)

Now we offer you, our Father,
with the bread and with the wine
all our joys and all our sorrows,
all our struggles and our time.

In these gifts we see our oneness
throughout city and the field,
and we find a life of solace
where the scars of strife are healed. *Refrain*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Abiding God, you planted the vineyard of creation, and called your chosen people to be your vine, rooted and grounded in you. In Jesus you gave us the true vine, turning earth into grapes and the water of life into the wine of abundant life. Through your Son you abide in us, and in the power of your Holy Spirit You shape the branches of the vine to make fruit that will last.

P: Transforming God, your Son took the ordinary substance of human flesh and bone; and on his last night with his friends he took the ordinary materials of bread and wine.

Come among us now, and make the ordinariness of our lives glow with the wonder of your resurrection life. Take these gifts of bread and wine and make them be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ; who, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Drink of this, all of you: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

P: Companion God, you turn Word into flesh,
and your perfect love casts out our fear.
You show us a way to love you by giving us brothers and sisters to love as we love you.
Abide with all whose lives are far from fruitful;
remain with those who have experienced pruning;
dwell with any who feel like branches that have been discarded. Unite your whole church, living and departed, as branches of your one vine, make us fruitful in body, mind, and spirit, until we stand before you, with your whole creation, and you are all in all, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: Let us join our hands and hearts together in the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray:

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table; All are welcome.

(Please be seated)

SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/ covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN -

"Let All Things Now Living" # 557

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Hymnal

(Please rise)

COMMUNION BLESSING

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us Pray,

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

BLESSING (1 John 4, John 15)

P: Beloved children of God, love one another well.

C: We will abide in Christ's generous love.

P: Be born in the Spirit of grace.

C: We will live in the fullness of hope.

P: Grow into branches bearing the fruit of love:
peace, joy, hope, faith.

**C: We will remember that the greatest harvest
is the harvest of love.**

SENDING HYMN -

"We Know That Christ Is Raised" # 189
Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Kelly Imhoff

Communion Assistants: Kelly Imhoff & Jerod Alderson

Acolyte Offering Presenter & Building Host: Kelly Imhoff

Coffee Hour: Open

Altar Flowers: Open

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 5/5):

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Anne Woodward

Communion Assistants: Anita Neilsen & Brad Larsen

Acolyte Offering Presenter & Building Host: Brad Larsen

Coffee Hour: Open

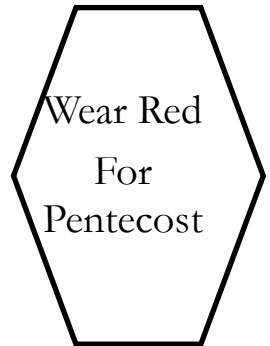
Altar Flowers: Open



JOIN US PENTECOST SUNDAY,
May 19th, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
for the
Confirmation of

*Ava Madolyn
Leger*

At Bethania Lutheran Church
4120 Wright Avenue
Racine



Reception following the Worship service



IT'S SPRING - Which means we need help with the church yard.

There is a sign up sheet for the weekly mowing on the bulletin board outside the hearth room.

If you can help with weeding—just come when you can choose a flower bed. No sign up necessary there's always weeds to pull.

Thank you!



If you have anyone you would like to have added to the prayer chain **please contact Kelly Imhoff at 262-554-1558 or by email: bethaniaprayer-chain@wi.twcbc.com**

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Please consider hosting coffee hour. The coffee will be started by the building opener. Treats maybe store bought or homemade.

Sign up sheet is in the hearth room on the coffee table.

Remember the food pantry. Suggested items: Canned dinners, Peanut butter, toilet paper, hygiene items, soup, and pastas.

Cans FOR K-9's



We are still collecting aluminum cans to help support the Racine County K-9 program.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Are now available on the table in the back of the church and online.

Deadline is:

May 31 at 3:00 p.m.

EMPTIES FOR CASH

"one persons junk is another persons treasure"

- ★ Bring in your empty inkjet cartridges—black or color.
- ★ Do not put any tape on the cartridge.
- ★ Place your empty cartridge in a zip type plastic bag. (ex: zip lock)

Bethania will receive \$2 per cartridge.

NO Toners please.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, April 28, 2024 -

9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour

Monday, April 29, 2024 -

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 -

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 -

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open

Thursday, May 2, 2024 -

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open

Friday, May 3, 2024 -

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Office Open

Sunday, May 5, 2024 -

9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour