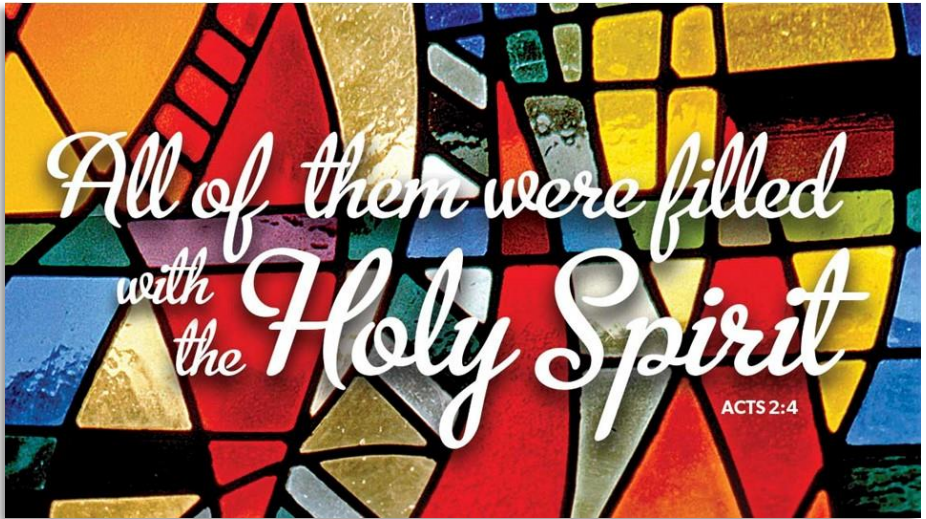




DAY OF PENTECOST

MAY 19, 2024

9:30 AM



Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Avenue SW
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-761-1543

Email: bethelgf.church@gmail.com
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A congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.

As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.

INTRODUCTION

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

W&P 140 There's A Redeemer

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection

you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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

Dakota Road Kyrie Eleison

R. Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.

Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all. For this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! R.

2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor. That we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! R.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Dakota Road - Praise To You

R: Praise to you, O Great Creator, Maker of the land and sky.

Praise to you, O Living Water, hope and breath of ev'ry life.

1. We are lost and we are longing, wand'ring in the wilderness, Searching for your holy presence and the reason we exist. R

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Mighty God, **you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who**

lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

JUBILATE CHOIR

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:1-21

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.

When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be
saved.'"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:24-34, 35B

How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.

There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

I will praise my God while I have my being.

May these words of mine please God.

I will rejoice in the LORD.

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:22-27

By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Dakota Road Alleluia

R: Alleluia, alleluia, I am the light of the world. Alleluia, alleluia, I am the light of the world.

P: Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, those who follow me will have the light of life. R.

The holy gospel according to John the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 15:26-27; 16:4B-15

While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.

[Jesus said,] “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Dave Scholten, LPA

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 538 The Spirit Sends Us Forth

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of grace. Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Dakota Road DR 223 All Thanks To You

R: All thanks to you, O Love and Light. For all the blessings of the night.

2. Within the earth dark soils surround; here life takes root and circles 'round. R.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Dakota Road LH 136 Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy tender, gentle God. Heaven and earth of full of You. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in Your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

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

The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.

LAMB OF GOD

Dakota Road DR 235

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

*Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us and
grant us your peace, Lamb of God, Lamb of God, Lamb of God.*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

BOB 46 Do This In Remembrance of Me [2x]

BOB 53 Feed Us Now

DR 22 Seed of Life

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.
Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

LH 566 Let's Go Out

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

And all God's children said: **Amen.**

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist	Connie Titcomb, piano;
Lay Assistant	Sandy Pepos
Usher	Laurie Turner
Tech	Gabe Smith
Projection	Warren Johnson
Children's Church	Ava Fossen and Julia Elkin
Hospitality	AnneRose Rogers
Counters	Patty Braget and Laurie Turner

Flowers are given by

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate the **Day of Pentecost.**

We welcome and thank **Dave Scholten, LPA** presiding in worship this morning. Jim has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

Thank you to **Jubilate Choir led by Jeff Skogley** for performing in worship this morning.

After worship today we begin season 3 of the Chosen in our **Adult Forum** in the Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 5/21

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Friday 5/24

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 5/26

- Worship service led by Jim Carlson, LPA in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- Senior Graduation Blessing
- Adult Forum The Chosen Season 2 in the Fellowship Hall following worship

Monday 5/27

- Memorial Day, Bethel Office is closed

Tuesday 5/28

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

Friday 5/31

- Bethel office is closed.

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