

# BETHEL LUTHERAN

E.L.C.A.

G R O V E C I T Y

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
Youth Sunday  
August 11, 2024

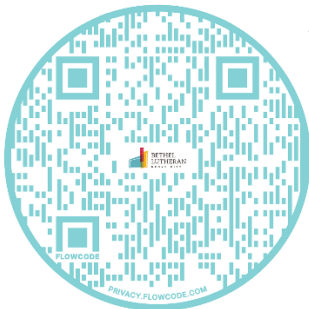
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Worship Service 10:00 A.M.

Welcome  
to Bethel Lutheran

We extend special greetings to all our guests who are with us today. Your presence, along with our members and friends, is truly valued. Know that all of God's people are always welcome here at Bethel.

If you would like to know more about Bethel Lutheran, her pastor, the Rev. Peter I. Ray, or any of the parish's programs and activities, please contact the church office (875-0510). You may also check out our website by scanning the QR code below. Again, welcome; and may you have a blessed week!



### About Bethel Lutheran Church

Bethel has been serving the Grove City community since 1968, ministering to its members and friends, supporting Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and LSS Food Pantry.

Bethel is in partnership with nearly 9,000 sister congregations, 26 Lutheran colleges (including Capital University, Bexley and Wittenberg, Springfield), 7 seminaries (including Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Bexley), 240+ world-wide missionaries in more than 40 countries and non-profit social services network, Lutheran World Relief...all ministries of the 4-million-member **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (E.L.C.A.)**. Bethel Lutheran Church is also home to The Amazing Kids Academy Preschool, Stephen Ministries, AA groups, as well as other community organizations.

Bethel Lutheran Church is a member of Pride in Grove City.

## Welcome

We, the members of Bethel Lutheran Church, Grove City, Ohio, believe the following statement represents our commitment and desire to reach out and welcome those in need of and searching for God's love.

***We believe we are all created in God's image and are all called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, and called to unite all people in God's love. We welcome and affirm all people. We invite those who are seeking God's presence in their lives to join us in our common journey. Our faith community seeks to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnic background, sexual orientations, gender identities, mental and physical abilities, socioeconomic levels, and theological backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will continually strive to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)***

## Worship and young children

All children are welcome in worship. They are a valued part of this faith community.

In addition, Bethel's Nursery (for children up to approximately four years of age) has paid staff at both services. This is available to meet the needs of your family and the worshiping needs of the congregation.

We have a "Parentseeker" paging system for optimal communication between nursery and parents worshiping in the sanctuary.

Children's bulletins are also available in the narthex for younger children to help them make age-appropriate connections with our weekly themes.

Bethel has video monitors in the narthex and hallways if your child gets restless.



Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.

- ❖ Quiet reverence before the liturgy allows prayer and meditation
- ❖ Please do not bring food or drinks into the Sanctuary during Worship
- ❖ Throughout the service, **C** means the congregation responds as the **bold print** indicates.
- ❖ As a worship courtesy, **please silence or turn off** all cellular phones and other communication devices during the service.

# Gathering

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*(please stand and face the baptismal font)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

C **Amen.**

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God, our provider,

C **Help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.  
Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?  
Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.  
Amen.**

**P** Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**C** Amen.

**OPENING HYMN**

*As We Gather At Your Table*

ELW #522



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;  
There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.  
may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

### **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P** 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** Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread  
that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us  
and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body  
in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

*(please be seated)*

### **RECEIVE NEW MEMBERS**

### **VBS SONG AND VIDEO PRESENTATION**

# Word

## FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:4-8

*First Kings chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest proves that the Lord is God, and afterward Elijah orders the killing of the Baal prophets. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.*

<sup>4</sup>[Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."<sup>5</sup>Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup>He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. <sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." <sup>8</sup>He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

Psalm 34:1-8

<sup>1</sup>I will bless the Lord<sup>1</sup> at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be<sup>1</sup> in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>I will glory<sup>1</sup> in the Lord;  
let the lowly hear<sup>1</sup> and rejoice.

<sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness<sup>1</sup> of the Lord;  
let us exalt God's<sup>1</sup> name together.



<sup>4</sup>I sought the Lord, who | answered me  
and delivered me from | all my terrors.  
<sup>5</sup>Look upon the Lord | and be radiant,  
and let not your faces | be ashamed.  
<sup>6</sup>I called in my affliction, and | the Lord heard me  
and saved me from | all my troubles.  
<sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord encamps around those who | fear the Lord  
and delivers them.  
<sup>8</sup>Taste and see that the | Lord is good;  
happy are they who take refuge in God!

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:25–5:2

*Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.*

<sup>25</sup>So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. <sup>5:1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**P** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(please stand, as able)*

## 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 John.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

**John 6:35, 41-51**

*After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.*

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

<sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.

<sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(please be seated)

## YOUTH GROUP PRESENTATIONS & VIDEO

(please stand, as able)

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Living Bread from Heaven*

ELW #542



- 1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
- 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
- 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
- 4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.  
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;  
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.  
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won-drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!  
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,  
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,  
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!  
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.  
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.  
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C 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 INTERCESSION**

**P** Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**P** Reignite the prayer of the church. By your Spirit, *(and remembering Clare of San Damiano, who was known for her powerful prayer,)* root your church around the globe in prayer and spiritual practices. Merciful God,

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**P** We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for our fellow creatures that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas. Merciful God,

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**P** Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but rather let us extend grace. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**P** Sustain feeding ministries and organizations such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries *(especially)*. We work and pray for a day when hunger is no more. Merciful God,

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**P** We pray for this congregation and for all who are gathered. Be present among anyone who cannot be with us today. Be with all who are hurting, grieving, or ill *(especially)*. Merciful God,

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**P** We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places. Merciful God,

**C** **Receive our prayer.**

**P** We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

**C** **Amen.**

Gathering • Word • Meal • Sending

# Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*(You may share a sign of God's peace such as a handshake, wave, hug or other appropriate greeting.)*

*(please be seated)*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, and the care of those in need. If you are a first-time visitor, it is our privilege to have you worship with us. Please do not feel the need or obligation to give a financial offering. Your presence is gift enough to God and to us.*

Our members and friends have the privilege to participate in faithful financial stewardship. Scan the QR Code below where you can give electronically.



*(please stand, as able)*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. 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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Jesus, Bread of life,  
you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.  
Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.

C Amen.



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

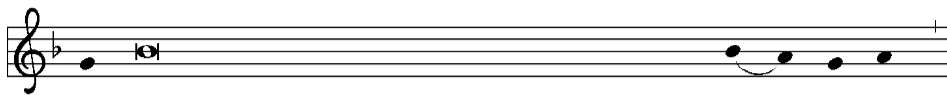
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



## PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;



who on this day overcame death and the grave,



and by his glorious resur - rec - tion



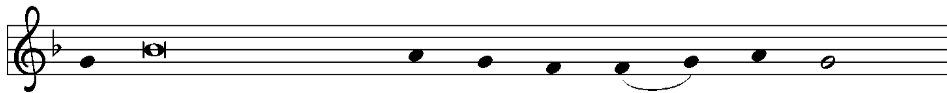
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

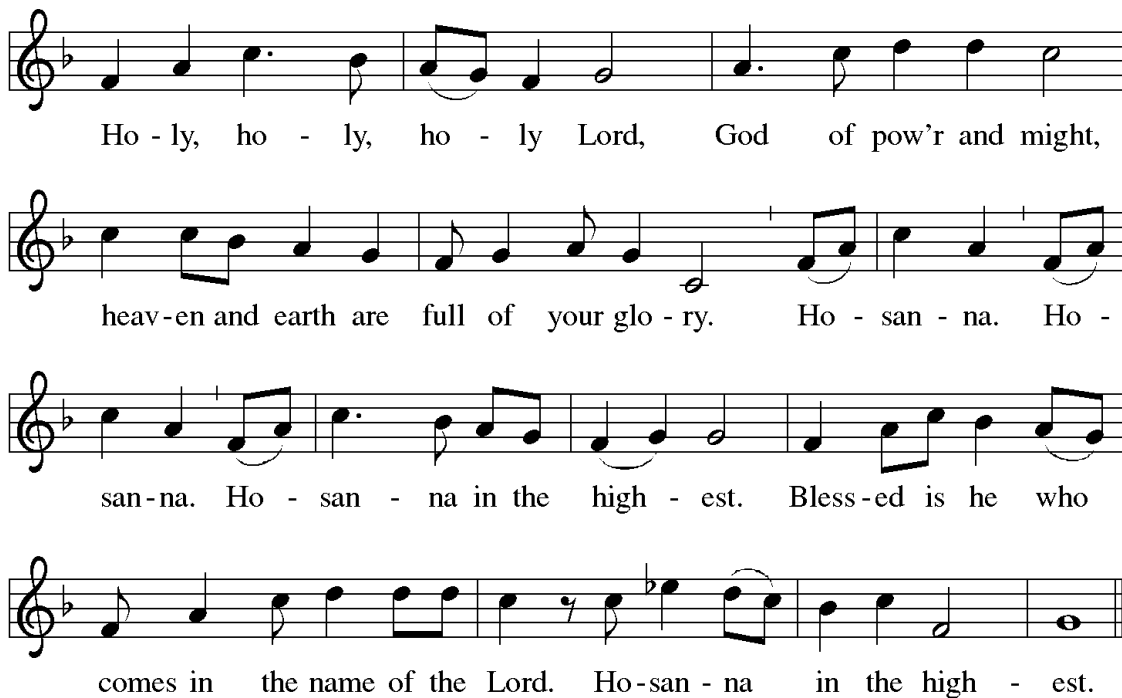


with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## SANTUS (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.

## EUCHARIST PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:**

**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 Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

C Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Bethel welcomes to the Lord's table all baptized Christians who believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of this meal. Children and adults who want to receive a blessing instead of bread and wine may cross their arms over their chest as they come forward. All are welcome!

## AGNUS DEI (Lamb of God)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Refrain*

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing  
 2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your  
 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -  
 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your  
 5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be  
 hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the  
 self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is  
 home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly  
 bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.  
 liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.  
 food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.  
 One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.  
 ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

*Refrain*

*(please stand, as able)*

## PASTORAL COMMENDATION

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray.

C **Amen.**

Gathering • Word • Meal • Sending

# Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission out into the world.

## BLESSING

P The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

## You Are Holy

ELW #525

(Sing Twice Through)



*Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer*  
 You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



*än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.*  
 than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



*Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,*  
 Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



*väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.*  
 to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



*Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,*  
 You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



*du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!*  
 you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!





*Ho - si - an - na,*                      *ho - si - an - na,*  
Sing ho - san - na                      in the high - est!



*ho - si - an - na,*                      *ho - si - an - na*    *vår Gud.*  
Sing ho - san - na!                      Sing ho - san - na to    our God!

### DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE



## Bethel's Staff

**Lead Pastor: The Rev. Peter I. Ray**

**Care & Visitation Pastor: The Rev. Jeffrey N. Wise**

**Organist/Director of Music: Ward Matthias**

**Pianist/Associate Musician: Ruth Hiles**

**Director of Choirs: Bree Johnson**

**Youth Coordinator: Jennifer Bueter**

**Nursery Director: Crystal Smith**

**Pre-School Directors: Jennifer Bueter & Cathy Tallman**

**Church Administrator: Cathy Tallman**

**Retired/Resource Pastors: The Rev. Wil Hallman**

**The Rev. Andrew Mazak**

**The Rev. Joe Stark**

### A Land Statement

*"We acknowledge that we gather as Bethel Lutheran Church on the traditional land of the Shawnee and Ofo and Kaskaskia Peoples past and present, including the Adena/Hopewell Cultures, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well."*