



**GOD'S
COMMANDS**
BURDEN OR BLESSING?

1 John 5:1-8

6th Sunday of Easter
on the 6th of May, 2018

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month
Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Diver – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated according to the Lutheran Confessions based on the teaching Jesus gave his disciples and us that he is truly present in this meal. Confident that our sins are forgiven, we experience our oneness with him and each other as he gathers us at his table. His true body and blood, given and shed for us, we share in this meal as he invites in Matthew 26:26-28, "Take and eat; this is My Body ... This is My Blood..." Baptized Christians sharing these beliefs are invited to receive Communion. All others are invited to the altar rail for a blessing. Wine can be taken by common chalice, individual cup, or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. Please address questions to the Elders or the Pastor. ***Non-alcoholic wine is in purple-colored cups.***

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

8:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

<i>Elders:</i>	Dave Ziegler	<i>Randy Gifford</i>
<i>Comm/Asst. Elder:</i>	OPEN	<i>Bob Souza</i>
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Sam Squires, Nathan Faitsch	<i>Hillary Fleming, Cameron Fleming</i>
<i>Lay Readers:</i>	Cheryl Ross, Dave Ross	<i>Jack Warneke, Monte Stoltzman</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	Don Heidlauf, George Bruszer	<i>John Schultz, Lance Rasmussen</i>
<i>Greeters:</i>	Jeff & Mary Kay Ams, The Maag Family	<i>Diane Perkins, Sandy Lahera</i>
<i>Fellowship:</i>	Theresa Fugelseth	
<i>May Altar Guild:</i>	Diane Mundrick	<i>Deborah Wuethrick</i>
<i>May Counters:</i>	Mary Kay Ams	<i>Joan Blasko</i>

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

The Silasiri family in remembrance of Micah's 8th birthday, and Paul and Linda Groh in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

THE WORD OF GOD SERVICE

This service celebrates the Word of God, using words from Paul's letters to Timothy.

Opening Hymn

Christ the Eternal Lord

LSB 829 sts. 1-4



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, Whose prom - ise here we claim,
2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word To ev - 'ry pass - ing age,
3 Christ the re - deem - ing Son, Who shares our hu - man birth,
4 Christ the un - fad - ing Light Of ev - er - last - ing day,



Whose gifts of grace are free - ly poured On all who name Your name;
Whose time - less teach - ings still are heard Set forth on Scrip - ture's page;
And by His death sal - va - tion won For ev - 'ry child of earth;
Our Morn - ing Star in splen - dor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;



With thank - ful - ness and praise We stand be - fore Your throne,
Trans - form our thought and mind, En - light - en all who read,
In - spire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love a - broad,
That light of truth You give To ser - vants as to friends,



In - tent to serve You all our days And make Your glo - ry known.
With - in Your Word by faith to find The bread of life in - deed.
That all may hon - or Christ to - day And fol - low Him as Lord.
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth's brief jour - ney ends.

Invocation and Greeting

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 Tim. 1:2b

C: And also with you.

The Word of God

P: In worship, we become acquainted with the sacred writings,

C: which are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

P: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

C: so that we may be equipped for every good work. Amen. 2 Tim. 3:15-16

Confession of Sin

P: The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance:

C: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim. 1:15

P: For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men:

C: Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all. 1 Tim. 2:5-6

Silence for meditation on our need for Christ's forgiveness.

Absolution (Forgiveness)

1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 1:9-10; 2 Tim. 2:21

P: God our Savior desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. He saved you and called you to a holy calling, not because of your works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave you in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. You have been cleansed of your sin, set apart as holy, useful to our Lord, and ready for every good work in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: If we have died with him,
C: we will also live with him;
P: if we endure,
C: we will also reign with him;
P: if we deny him,
C: he also will deny us;
P: if we are faithless,
C: he remains faithful—
P: for he cannot deny himself.

2 Tim. 2:13-14

Response *The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns* LSB 532 sts. 3-4

These hymns verse are based on the above Scripture, 2 Timothy 2:13-14.

3 The Joy of all who dwell a - bove, The Joy of all be - low
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, With all its grace, is giv'n;
To whom He man - i - fests His love And grants His name to know.
Their name an ev - er - last - ing name, Their joy the joy of heav'n.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Anthem**“As A Little Child”****Adult Choir**

O you must become as a little child, as a little child and come unto Him.

Yes, you must become as a little child to share in the kingdom of God.

Come unto Jesus, run into His arms. Come unto Jesus and you can share the kingdom of God.

Jesus love me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

O you can share the kingdom of God. Yes, Jesus loves me.

The Charge to the Congregation Regarding the Scriptures

P: Devote yourselves to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

Guard the deposit entrusted to you—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do not be ashamed of His Word, for we know whom we have believed, and we are convinced that He is able to guard His Word in us by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from the Scriptures, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

C: **We have devoted ourselves to the Scriptures.**

1 Tim. 4:13,6:3-4,20; 2 Tim. 1:12-14

We dedicate this time now to hear from God’s Word. Amen.

Reading from the History of the Early Church**Acts 10:34–48 (ESV)**

³⁴So [in the presence of Cornelius the Centurion, a God-fearing Gentile], Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

1 John 5:1–8 (ESV)

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Song of Praise

Good, Good Father

VERSE 1



1. I've heard a thou - sand sto - ries of what — they think You're like, — but



I've heard — the ten - der whis - per of love — in — the dead of night. — You tell



— me that You're pleased, and that I'm — nev - er a - lone. —

CHORUS



You're a good, — good Fa - ther; it's who You are, it's who You are,



it's who You are. — And I'm loved — by You; — it's who I am, it's who I am,



it's who I am. —

1. Go to Verse 2.

2. After verse 2,

Repeat Chorus twice. Go to Bridge.

3. End on Chorus (once).

VERSE 2



2. I've seen man - y search - ing for an -



- swers — far and wide, — but I — know — we're all search - ing for an -



- swers — on - ly You pro - vide. — Be - cause You know — just what we need — be - fore



we say — a word. You're a good, — good Fa

Go to Chorus.

BRIDGE



You are per - fect in all _ of Your ways. _ You are



per - fect in all _ of Your ways. _ You are per - fect in all _ of Your ways _ to



Go to Chorus.

us. You are us.

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Holy Gospel

John 15:9–17 (ESV)

[Jesus had said, “I am the vine; you are the branches.” He continues here speaking to the Apostles]: ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²[Jesus said:] “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

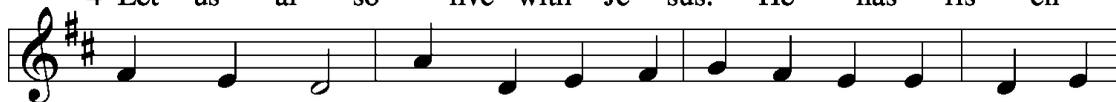
Hymn of the Day

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

LSB 685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

The Charge for the Pastor

P: Paul instructed Timothy as a pastor. His letters speak of the calling and duties of pastors, and his words are appropriate to describe what it means for you as a congregation to call me to serve as your Pastor. Please use these words to remind me of my duty now:

C: **We charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus:
Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season to speak His Word;
Point out errors, warn people, and encourage us,
with complete patience and teaching. Amen.**

2 Tim. 4:1-2

Sermon

1 John 5:1-8

“In What Way Are God's Commandments NOT Burdensome?!?”

Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory (sung as Offerings are brought forward to the altar)

LSB 192



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayers

P: Supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings
are to be made for all people,

C: *thanking God whom we serve,*

P: as we remember others constantly in our prayers night and day.

**C: *And praying for our leaders and all who are in high positions,
that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life,***

P: godly and dignified in every way.

C: *This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.*

1 Tim. 2:1-3; 2 Tim. 1:3

(Pastor then offers the Prayers of the Church).

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

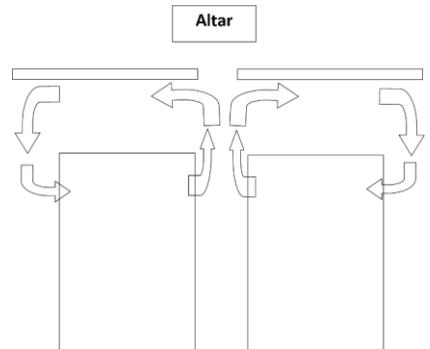
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed
are invited to receive Communion with us
if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ,
and the wine is the blood of Christ,
truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe,
we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite
those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing
from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.
- Use the distribution time to prepare yourself for communion, sing the hymns as prayers to God, and maintain this as meditative time.



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

P: The Lord was revealed in the flesh,

C: *declared-righteous by the Spirit,*

P: seen by messengers,

C: *proclaimed among the nations,*

P: believed in the world,

C: *taken up in glory.*

1 Tim. 3:14

P: He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light,
whom no one has ever seen or can see.

To him be honor and eternal dominion.

1 Tim. 6:15-16

C: *Amen.*

P: The Lord be with your spirit and grace be with you.

2 Tim. 4:22

C: *And also with you.*

The Lord's Prayer

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

All: 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.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

First Distribution Hymn**Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious**

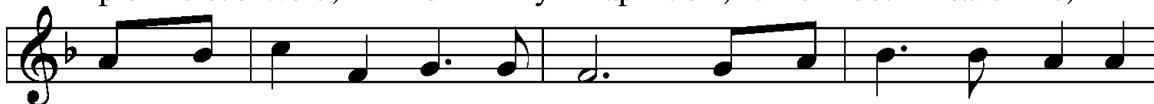
LSB 548



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O
 2 Thou hast died for my trans - gres - sion, All my sins on
 3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,



Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,
 Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me sal - va - tion,
 pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,



Thou hast con-quer'd in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -
 On the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a -
 For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter



rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly
 rise And shall meet Thee in the skies. Death it - self is
 scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee



sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.
 tran - si - to - ry; I shall lift my head in glo - ry.
 and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

Second Distribution Hymn**Now Thank We All Our God**

LSB 895



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voic - es,
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re-joice-es;
 With ev-er joy-ful hearts And bless-ed peace to cheer us
 The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high-est heav-en,



Who from our moth-ers' arms Has blest us on our way
 And keep us in His grace And guide us when per-plexed
 The one e-ter-nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a-dore;



With count-less gifts of love And still is ours to-day.
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next!
 For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev-er-more.

Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord... **C: Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Father, You have strengthened us by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, through His body and blood shared with us in the holy meal. May what we have received from You enable us to share Your grace with others. May we endure all suffering in this world without swerving from the faith. And when we depart from Your Word, grant us repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth so that we may receive the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

C: Amen.

2 Tim. 2:1-2, 1 Tim. 6:21, 2 Tim. 2:10,2:25

Benediction

P: There is stored up for you the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to you on the Last Day, and not only to you but also to all who have longed for his appearing. The Lord will rescue you from every evil deed and bring you safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

2 Tim. 4:8,18

Closing Hymn

Onward, Christian Soldiers



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,
2 Like a might - y ar - my Moves the Church of God;
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, King - doms rise and wane,
4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful, Join our hap - py throng,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.
Broth - ers, we are tread - ing Where the saints have trod.
But the Church of Je - sus Con - stant will re - main.
Blend with ours your voic - es In the tri - umph song:



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;
We are not di - vid - ed, All one bod - y we,
Gates of hell can nev - er 'Gainst that Church pre - vail;
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or Un - to Christ, the king;



For - ward in - to bat - tle See His ban - ners go!
One in hope and doc - trine, One in char - i - ty.
We have Christ's own prom - ise, And that can - not fail.
This through count - less a - ges Men and an - gels sing.

Refrain



On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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