

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

FIRST READING: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

⁶Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." ⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ²And Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,⁵¹" "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he 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!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then 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.

PSALM: Psalm 146

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "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. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

¹⁴"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus 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'?" ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Today: May 3rd	Sunday: May 10th
Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter
9:15-Adult SS/Youth SS	Mothers Day
9:30-Coffee Fellowship	9:15-Adult SS/Youth SS
10:30-Worship w/Communion	9:30-Coffee Fellowship
4:00-Laurens Care Center	10:30-Worship / SS Spring Program
6:00-Bethany Prayer Group	Women's Group Meeting following service
Tuesday: May 5th	6:00-Bethany Prayer Group
8:30-Prayer Group	
9:30-Morning Coffee @ BLC	
Wednesday: May 6th	
8:30-Matins & A Meal	
7:00-Confirmation	

Prayer Concerns: Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness, Rita Schmidt, Roger Shulz, Marie Rogers, Jeanette Jardee, Shannon Hersom, Pat Boughey, Mary Roat, Todd & Elizabeth Wood, Jerry Runneberg, Myles Pedersen, Pastor John Mayer, Monica Isom, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries

Lectors: Cindy Seward
Ushers: May 3rd Dean & Eloise Armstrong
 May 10th – Kelly & Dawn Gordon

Acolytes: Bethany Youth
Weekly Budget Needs: \$2817.00
 Faith Promise \$500.00 Worship 30
 Sunday School \$11.00 Adult SS 5 Youth SS 12

Birthdays: April 26-Kathy Sorenson; May 7-Lacey Anderson;
 8- Lorie Hudson, Isabella Johnsen

***Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.**

Altar Flowers:

An asterisk () indicates when to stand (for those who are able)*

ORDER OF THE SERVICE

- PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL
- WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS
- *CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS P.56
- *HYMN *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* **LBW 383**
- *GREETING P.57
- *KYRIE P.57
- *HYMN OF PRAISE P.60
- *PRAYER OF THE DAY *(bulletin-in unison)*
- FIRST READING: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60**
- PSALM: Psalm 146** *(bulletin -responsively)*
- SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**
- *ALLELUIA VERSE P.62
- ***THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**
- *GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63
- CHILDREN'S SERMON
- SERMON** **Pastor David Klappenbach**
- HYMN *You Are the Way* **LBW 464**
- NICENE CREED P.64
- *PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
Leader: "...Lord, in your mercy."
Response: "hear our prayer."
- *THE PEACE
- OFFERING / *OFFERTORY P.66
- *OFFERTORY PRAYER P.67
- *THE GREAT THANKSGIVING P.68
- *WORDS OF INSTITUTION P.69
- *THE LORD'S PRAYER P.71
- *LAMB OF GOD P.72
- DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION
- BLESSING P.72
- *POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE P.72
- *BENEDICTION P.76
- *HYMN *Abide with Us, Our Savior* **LBW 263**
- *DISMISSAL



May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter

WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

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To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you. Please come again!

Welcome to our Communion Sunday Service. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the Communion/Visitor card in front of you. Please come again!