

7th Sunday of Easter

*Indicates that all who are able are invited to stand.

Bold type invites the people to respond.

PH by hymns denotes the large hymnal &
STF is the blue soft sided hymnal.

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

Lighting the Candles and Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship:

- One: Let the righteous be joyful!
All: **Sing to God; sing praises to God's name;
lift up a song to the one who rides upon
the clouds.**
One: Listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty
voice.
All: **Ascribe power to God, whose power is in
the skies.**

*Morning Prayer

*Hymn *God Is Here* Ph-461

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Christ our Savior, as you ascended, you left the work to us. You called us to keep the movement going, to witness to the ends of the earth, to pray, to heal, to glorify you through our thoughts, words, and deeds, to show the world a glimpse of the goodness you have given us. We have fallen short of this call. We have hidden ourselves in fear, sought our own comfort, and resigned ourselves to the status quo. Forgive us, and strengthen us to do your will, that we may be signs of your coming reign. *(Pause for a few moments of silent reflection and personal confession.)* ...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Listen to this prayer: Jesus prayed, "Protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." This tenderness and care for us shows us who Jesus is—the one who hears our prayers, responding to our longing for forgiveness with mercy. Thanks be to God, praise be to Christ, glory be to the Holy Spirit.

Words of Peace

Since we have received the peace of Christ, let us share that peace with one another. The peace Christ be with you all! And also with you.

***Congregational Response** *Glory Be to the Father* PH-579

We Listen For God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Acts 1:6-14

Reading ends: This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

- One: Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.
All: **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away; as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**
One: But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.
All: **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**
One: In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;
All: **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.**
One: O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

- All: the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
One: You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished.
All: **Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**
One: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.
All: **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**
ONE: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.
All: **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

Second Lesson

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Reading ends: This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

John 17:1-11

Reading ends: This is the Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn *To God Be The Glory* PH-485

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Response: hear our prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

Thank you for your gifts of financial support of Bethel's ministries which may be placed in the offering plate near the

main entrance to the sanctuary either before or following worship.

***Congregational Response** *Doxology*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication**

***Affirmation of Faith**

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22

***Hymn** *In Christ There Is No East or West* PH-439

We Leave to Serve God

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response** *Song of Hope* PH-432

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's worship leaders: Rev. Lori Kleppe; Dawn Jacobsen, Lay Leader; and Linda Johansen, Musician.

Pastor Kleppe would welcome visiting you in your home or at a coffee shop in town. Her contact information is 563-380-8187 or lori.kleppe@gmail.com

Beverages are available in the narthex and may be enjoyed during worship. You are invited to help yourself.

THIS WEEK AT BETHEL

Today, May 17

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
Fellowship following
Session Meeting

Thursday, May 21

10:00 a.m. Bible Study at Stoney Brook

Next Sunday, May 24

Day of Pentecost

10:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
Fellowship following

Welcome to Worship at Bethel Presbyterian Church!

-The order of service is found in your bulletin and projected on the screen.

-An * shows the time when the congregation stands. If it is more comfortable to remain seated, please do so.

-Restrooms are found on each level of the church. An usher will help you find your way. Fully accessible restrooms are located in the basement.

-A nursery room is available but we welcome hearing the sound of small children.

-Communion is offered on most first Sundays of the month. All are welcome to receive the elements of the meal. If helpful servers may come to you in the pew.

-We are so glad you are worshipping with us this morning. If your schedule allows, please join us for a time of fellowship following the service.

Members and friends of Bethel who seek healing and wholeness in their lives are kept in prayer during worship. Today we are remembering – Cathy Bemiss, Teri Brockway, Don Durscher, Sarah Updegraff Murray, Kirk Bruso, Rose Marie Knight (Julie Larson's mom), Darwin Schrage, Baby McCoy

Stoney Brook – Kate Ewing, Kathy Meyer

Good Samaritan Center – Peggi Pape

Eastern Star Decorah – Doyle Gorden

Maple Crest – Tex Heyer

Copper Creek – Sandy Schnor

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**Welcome to worship at
Bethel Presbyterian Church,
where everyone is welcome.**

**7th Sunday in Easter
May 17, 2026**