



... they **broke bread**

at home and

ate their food



with **glad** and

generous hearts,

praising **God** and



having the

goodwill of all

the people. Acts 2:46-47, NRSV

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS:

We extend a warm welcome from Bethel Presbyterian Church!

We invite you to participate in signing the Friendship Folders adding your name and address and if you desire a church newsletter or a pastoral call.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say "sins...sin against us" rather than "debts..." or "trespasses..."

Prayer requests can be noted on the cards provided in the pew racks and placed in the offering plate.

The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
4th Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2023 - 11:00 AM

** Indicates congregation standing if able.
Congregational responses indicated in bold.*

GATHERING AND GREETING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship Pad found in your pew, passing it down the pew then back.

Prelude

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: Sisters and brothers, let us gather together
with glad and generous hearts.

P: For many signs and wonders are being done among us.

L: Let us break bread together and share our lives in common.

**P: Let us give what we can to all who have needs
so that all people, no matter who they are,
may regard us with good will.**

L: Let us devote ourselves to our prayers and to the gospel.

P: For in this way God will add to our numbers every day.

Prayer of Invocation:

Let us pray:

Good Shepherd, you call us by name, and we know your voice.

Open the gate for us, that we may come and go freely,
have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.

*Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther;
there is no shad-ow of turn-ing with thee.
Thou chang-est not; thy com-pas-sions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be.*

Refrain:

*Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see.
All I have need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed.
Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord un-to me!*

*Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest,
sun, moon, and stars in their cours-es a-bove
join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness
to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.*

[Refrain]

*Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth,
thine own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide,
strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row:
bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!*

[Refrain]

* Call to Confession

Friends, in as much as God is our shepherd,
let us not fear, but confess our sin that God may restore our souls.

* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Holy One, we confess to you and to one another
that we have not always followed Christ's example.
When we have been abused, we have been abusive in return.
We have gone astray.
Lead us back into your fold and guard our souls in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

* Sung Response No. 573 **“CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN”**
Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a-gain.

* Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, the promise of our faith is that if we entrust ourselves
to the One who judges justly, we need not feel threatened,
for we will be returned to righteousness.
Having been brought back into the safety of God's fold,
let us share our peace with one another.

* Sung Response No. 591 **“HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!”** (*Refrain*)

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!
Hal-le-lu-yah! Hal-le-lu-yah!

THE WORD

Children's Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Loving God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us
to be devoted to the teachings of your Word,
that through it we may hear your voice and follow it into eternal life.

Amen.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Psalter	Psalm 23	<i>(The Divine Shepherd)</i>	Pg. 474
Gospel	John 10:1-10	<i>(Jesus the Good Shepherd)</i>	Pg. 97
History	Acts 2:42-47	<i>(Life among the Believers)</i>	Pg. 112

Sermon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Hymnal Pg. 37, Sections 1-2

*Jesus portion of The Brief Statement of Faith, 1991,
The Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

In life and death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.**

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,**

**forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Shepherding God, in a dangerous world,
let us hear your voice and come and go through your gate.

We pray for the whole church,
that we may be devoted to your Word and to universal fellowship,
being generous to all who have need.

We pray for the earth,
for green pastures and still waters,
that we may restore them
to the goodness and purity that they had
at the time that you created them.

We pray for the people of the world,
their nations, and leaders,
that your wisdom and peace may govern all,
so that no one will fear.

We pray for all those in need,
for those in want, those ill and those dying,
that we may be the banquet that you set before them
as we anoint them, feed them, and comfort them in your name.

We pray for ourselves, our families, and those we love.
May no one live in fear; may all dwell in your presence.

Blessed are you, Great Shepherd,
who, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit,
gives us goodness and mercy,
leads us down right paths, and restores our souls. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*sins / sin against us*)

Hymnal, Pg 35

**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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

Call to Offering

Church, our God has prepared a table before us and our cup overflows.
So let us give generously from our common wealth,
as our way of praising God and giving to those in need.

Offertory

* Hymn No. 606 **“PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW”**

*Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;
praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.*

* Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:

Holy and generous God, you have anointed us and we are yours.
Bless these tithes and offerings
that they may become green pastures and still waters
for any and all who need your comfort and restoration. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH

* Hymn No. 837 “WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE”
(Leaning on the Everlasting Arms)

SHOWALTER

*What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.*

Refrain:

*Lean-ing, lean-ing,
safe and se-cure from all a-larms;
lean-ing, lean-ing,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.*

*O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.*

[Refrain]

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,
lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.*

[Refrain]

* Charge

Devote yourself to the teachings of the gospel,
to your prayers and our Christian fellowship day by day,
for they will lead you to a glad and generous heart.

* Blessing

May the God who calls us by name
lead you out to green pastures
and lead you in to the safety of Christ's fold.

* Sung Response No. 591 **“HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!”** (*Verse 1*)

O God, to whom shall we go?

You a-lone have the words of life.

Let your words be our prayer and the song we sing:

hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah!

* Postlude

MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923

Text & Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

“Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen”

Text: Trad. liturgical text

Music: Thomas Pavlecho, 2006

Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”

Text: Ref. trad. Liturgical text; Marty Haugen, 1990

Music: Caribbean melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1990; stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1990

Text and Music © 1990 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Music Arr. © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)”

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”