Welcome to Bethany! As We Gather

"In the sight of God" is a phrase used throughout Scripture. It reminds us of God's unceasing care and concern for His creation. In Proverbs: "Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man" (Proverbs 3:3–4). All our life is in God's amazingly loving sight as He watches over all His creation and especially over people. Out of love for Christ and one another, we can strive to see others around us in the same way that God sees them.

Greeting

P This is the day the Lord has made,
C **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Hymn: LSB 660
"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner;
It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry
His army He shall lead
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.

Hymn: LSB 660
"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
The trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict
In this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger
And strength to strength oppose.

Hymn: LSB 660
"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

4 **Stand up, stand up for Jesus;**
The strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle,
The next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming,
Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory
Shall reign eternally.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

P Praise the LORD!
C **Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

P I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
C **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
C **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

Opening Sentences

P The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
C **Praise the LORD!**

Confession and Absolution

P As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy. Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C **Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve Your punishment...**

Confession and Absolution

C **...in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.**

P God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the

Confession and Absolution

P command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit *(spoken responsively)*

P Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

C **Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

P Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of His praise be heard,

C **who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**

P Blessed be God,
because He has not rejected my prayer or

Introit

P removed His steadfast love from me!
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

Kyrie *(spoken together)*

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

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.**

First Reading: Acts 10:34–48

34Peter 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

First Reading: Acts 10:34–48

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.

First Reading: Acts 10:34–48

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,

First Reading: Acts 10:34–48

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 Lesson: 1 John 5:1–8

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?

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 5:1–8

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.**

Holy Gospel: John 15:9–17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

9[Jesus said:] "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"This is my commandment, that you love one
another as I have loved you. 13Greater love

Holy Gospel: John 15:9–17

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.

Holy Gospel: John 15:9–17

[17]These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn: LSB 490
"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

1 **Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!**
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

Hymn: LSB 490
"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

3 **Jesus lives! For me He died,**
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

Hymn: LSB 490
"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

5 **Jesus lives! And now is death**
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!

Sermon

Confession of FaithApostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed

C He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Lord's Prayer

C **For Thine is the kingdom**
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Recognition of Mothers

P Since 1870, the second Sunday in May has been designated as a time to honor mothers in the United States. In more recent times, expressions of appreciation and honor have been extended to grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and all women whose contributions to the well-being of children have enriched society. Through the ages, many women have been remembered and honored by the Church. The hymn "For All the Faithful Women" celebrates Christian women throughout the centuries, thanking God for them.

Hymn Verse: LSB 855
"For All the Faithful Women"

1 For all the faithful women
Who served in days of old,
To You shall thanks be given;
To all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness
In tasks Your wisdom gave.
To You their lives bore witness,
Proclaimed Your pow'r to save.

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Recognition

P Several women commemorated in individual stanzas of "For All the Faithful Women" are honored for their examples of blessed motherhood. Among those are Hannah, from Old Testament times, and Eunice and Lois, mentioned in the New Testament writings of Paul. There is also a stanza for Mary, the mother of our Lord. Bringing the remembrance to present times, a new stanza honors mothers from all times and places as "gifts among us."

Hymn Verse: "We Thank You, Lord, for Mothers"

1 We thank You, Lord, for mothers
Who Your great kindness share
Through loving deeds for others
As emblems of Your care.
May we true honor show them
And joyfully express
That they are gifts among us
To cherish and to bless.

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Conclusion

P The final stanza of "For All the Faithful Women" is a doxology, most appropriate this day to glorify God as we express our thanks for the faithful women in our lives and in the ongoing life of the Church.

Hymn Verse: LSB 855
"For All the Faithful Women"

4 All praise to God the Father!
All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise the Holy Spirit,
Who binds the Church in one!
With saints who went before us,
With saints who witness still,
We sing glad Alleluias
And strive to do Your will.

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Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and
✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Hymn: LSB 655
"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

Hymn: LSB 655
"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

Hymn: LSB 655
"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Thank you for joining us today.

May God Bless and Keep You in the week to come.

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