



*After he said these things, he was taken up  
while they were watching,  
and a cloud took him out of their sight.*

*– Acts 1:9*

**BETHANY**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# **Bethany Lutheran Church (ELS)**

**Welcome** to Bethany! You have joined us for the most important time we spend together as a congregation. Each week we gather around God's Word and sacraments with the sure promise that Jesus is present wherever two or three come together in his name. We also rely on his promise to build us up and strengthen us in our faith through his Word and sacraments.

**The order of service** is outlined in this folder. Hymns will be sung from the hymnals located under the seats in front of you.

**Restrooms** are located next to the coat racks just off the entryway.

**An offering** will not be taken during the service. An offering plate is located on the table in the back of the sanctuary if you would like to give an offering.

**Should you have any questions** or need any type of assistance, please feel free to ask the usher or the pastor.

**About Bethany:** Bethany is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). We are in full fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We would love to become better acquainted with you at your convenience. For more information, contact Pastor Smith at [mksmith@blc.edu](mailto:mksmith@blc.edu) or 515-232-1544.

## **Bethany Lutheran Church (ELS)**

**3113 Diamond St**

**Ames, Iowa 50010**

**(515) 232-1544**

**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Michael K. Smith**

**Find us on the web at [bethanyames.net](http://bethanyames.net).**

## The Ascension of Our Lord

May 17, 2026

**Holy Communion:** *We invite members of our congregation or other ELS or WELS congregations to commune with us. We ask everyone else to please visit with Pastor Smith before our next communion service. **Members:** Please sign the communion registration sheet on the table in the narthex.*

### **Order of Service – Rite Two** (beginning on p. 60)

*See also “Prayers for Worship” on p. 40 in the front of the hymnal.*

### **The Hymn – #388 – “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”**

#### **The Introit**

P: Oh, clap your hands, all you people! Shout to God with the voice of triumph.

C: ♪ **Glory be to the Father....**

#### **The Collect for the Day**

P: Lord Jesus, King of glory, we celebrate today when you ascended far above the heavens, and how at God’s right hand you rule the nations. Leave us not alone, we pray, but grant us the Spirit of truth that, at your command and by your power, we may be your witnesses in all the world; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

#### **The First Lesson – Acts 1:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

<sup>3</sup>After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup> After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

### **The Psalm of the Day - Psalm 110**

P: The decree of the LORD to my lord:

**C: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool under your feet."**

P: The LORD will stretch out your strong scepter from Zion.

**C: Rule in the midst of your enemies.**

P: Your people will be willing on the day of your power.

**C: In majesty of holiness, from the womb of the dawn, the dew of your youth will be yours.**

P: The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind:

**C: "You are a priest forever, in the manner of Melchizedek."**

P: The Lord is at your right hand.

**C: He will crush kings on the day of his wrath.**

P: He will judge the nations.

**C: He will fill valleys with corpses.**

P: He will crush heads over the wide world.

**C: He will drink from a stream beside the way; therefore, he will lift up his head.**

### **The Second Lesson - Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup> This is why, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes

of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is, <sup>19</sup> and just how surpassingly great his power is for us who believe. <sup>20</sup> It is as great as the working of his mighty strength, which God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> God also placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. <sup>23</sup> The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

### **The Alleluia (p. 67)**

P: Alleluia! Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.

Alleluia!

**C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **The Gospel Lesson – Luke 24:44-53**

P: The Holy Gospel for this Sunday is written in the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the 44<sup>th</sup> verse.

**C: ♪ Glory be to you, O Lord!**

<sup>44</sup> [Jesus] said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup> He led them out as far as the vicinity of Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> And while he was blessing them, he parted from them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> They were continually in the temple courts, praising and blessing God.

P: This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**C: ♪ Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**The Nicene Creed** (p. 69)

**The Chief Hymn** – #389 – “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing”

**The Sermon** – Acts 1:4-11 – “Jesus Ascended. Now What?”

**The Offertory** (pp. 70-71)

**The Prayer of the Church**

P: Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the world on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

**C: Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.**

P: Give your word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

**C: Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.**

P: The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

**C: Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.**

P: Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

**C: Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.**

P: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**C: Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

*(Here special intercessions may be made, silently or spoken by the pastor.)*

P: Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

C: **Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

**The Service of Holy Communion** (beginning on p. 72)

**The Hymn of Thanks** – #327 (vss. 1-2) – “O Lord, We Praise Thee”

**The Closing Hymn** – #392 – “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build”

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### **Announcements**

- Thank you to our dedicated Sunday School teachers, Val McMullen and Brenda Smiley, for another wonderful year of teaching God’s Word to our young people! (Thanks to all our substitute teachers also!)
  - Schedule change coming: **Next Sunday** we will switch to our summer schedule. There will be no Sunday School and Bible class, and worship will begin at 9:00am.
  - Pastor Smith will be out of town Tuesday and Wednesday as he attends the Great Plains Pastoral Conference in Mankato. In case of an emergency, please contact one of the elders (Keith Lukens or Joel Franzen).
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**Visiting with us today?** Please sign the guest register in the entryway or use the QR code.



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### **This Week at Bethany**

Wednesday	7:00pm	Bible Study
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b>

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