

✘ **The Second Sunday of Easter** ✘  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**April 11, 12 & 15, 2026**

**WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME**

WELCOME to our guests and members as we gather for worship today! **Please place your names in our red “Record of Fellowship” books.** Also, please give attention to the written “News and Notes”.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

God of love, through Your Son You have commanded us to love one another. By the guidance of Your Word and Spirit, deliver us from impenitence and teach us the truth that we might confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and be reconciled to one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**WORSHIP NOTES**

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus establishes the ministry of the Gospel in order to bestow His life-giving Holy Spirit and His peace upon the Church. To those who are called and ordained to this office, and to those they serve in His name, He grants the Holy Absolution of all sins. By the fruits of His cross, He replaces fear and doubt with peace and joy, and thus gives *“repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins”* (Acts 5:31). Through the preaching of His sent ones, He calls us to believe that He *“is the Christ, the Son of God,”* so that by such faith we *“may have life in his name”* (John 20:31). In His resurrection, we have the *“living hope”* to which we have been *“born again”* and by which we are guarded *“for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”* (1 Peter 1:3, 5). Until then, *“though you have not seen him, you love him,”* and by the mercies of God *“you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory”* (1 Peter 1:8).

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**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.

- 2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne  
High above all things is given.  
I shall go where He is gone,  
Live and reign with Him in heaven.  
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!  
This shall be my confidence.
- 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.
- 4 Jesus lives! I know full well  
Nothing me from Him shall sever.  
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell  
Part me now from Christ forever.  
God will be my sure defense;  
This shall be my confidence.
- 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!

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### *Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### ✠ Service of the Word ✠

#### Introit

*Psalm 105:1-5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2-3*

P Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**C Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!**

P Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

**C Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

P Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

**C Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.**

P He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

**ALL 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.**

**ALL** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk,  
that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed  
you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**Kyrie**

*LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray  
to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the  
Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the  
Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship  
and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**This Is the Feast**

*LSB 155*

**C** **This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood  
set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,  
blessing, and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of  
all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the  
Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.  
Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

### **First Reading**

*Acts 5:29–42*

<sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

<sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup>For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup>So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; <sup>39</sup>but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, <sup>40</sup>and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup>Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem – Grades 4, 5 & 6 Choir (8:00)**

**Epistle**

*1 Peter 1:3–9*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again  
to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the  
dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and  
unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God’s power are being  
guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the  
last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if  
necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the  
tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that  
perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in  
praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.  
<sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do  
not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is  
inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your  
faith, the salvation of your souls.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse**

*LSB 156*

- C **Alleluia.**  
**Lord, to whom shall we go?**  
**You have the words of eternal life.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel**

*John 20:19–31*

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

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the  
doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews,  
Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be  
with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands  
and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the  
Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the  
Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he  
had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive

the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

### **Offering (10:30)**

#### **470 O Sons and Daughters of the King (v. 1, 4-9)**

- 1 O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 4 That night the \_apostles met in fear;  
Among them came their master dear  
And said, “My peace be with you here.”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 5 When Thomas first the tidings heard  
That they had seen the risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 6 “My pierced side, O Thomas, see,  
And look upon My hands, My feet;  
Not faithless but believing be.”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied;  
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;  
“You are my Lord and God!” he cried.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 8 How blest are they who have not seen  
And yet whose faith has constant been,  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 9 On this most holy day of days  
Be laud and jubilee and praise:  
To God your hearts and voices raise.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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## **Sermon**

**Offering (5:30 and 8:00)**

**Anthem – Grades 4, 5 & 6 Choir (8:00)**

*Stand*

## **Apostles' 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.  
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**

### **☩ Service of the Sacrament ☩**

#### **Preface**

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### **Sanctus**

*LSB 161*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation

accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

*LSB 162*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini**

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

**Agnus Dei**

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

**Distribution**

*If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.*

*Please note that “gluten free” communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant “gluten free” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant “clear” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.*

**Distribution Hymns** (please refer to the hymnal)

**818 - In Thee Is Gladness**

**482 - This Joyful Eastertide**

**587 - I Know My Faith Is Founded**

*Stand*

**Thank the Lord**

LSB 164

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy

**with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**Benediction**

*LSB 166*

**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.**

**720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

1 We walk by faith and not by sight,  
No gracious words we hear  
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
But we believe Him near.

2 We may not touch His hands and side,  
Nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice  
And cry "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound  
To call on You when You are near  
And seek where You are found.

4 For You, O resurrected Lord,  
Are found in means divine:  
Beneath the water and the Word,  
Beneath the bread and wine.

5 Lord, when our life of faith is done,  
In realms of clearer light  
We may behold You as You are,  
With full and endless sight.

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**Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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**ASSISTING AT WORSHIP**

**Preacher**                      **Rev. Patrick Niles**  
**Presiding Minister**        **Rev. Jeremy Hanson**

**Organists**                    **Sandy Kasten**  
                                      **Susan Wachter**

**Lay Readers**                **Jan Wegner (5:30)**  
                                      **Bill Lang (8:00)**  
                                      **Randy Holler (6:00)**

**Communion Assistants**

**Jim Schmidt & Richard Zimbal Sr. (5:30)**  
**Bill Lang (8:00)**  
**Luther Bajus (10:30)**  
**Randy Holler (6:00)**

**Student Assistants**

**(A) Vinny Lemus & Amaya Contreras (5:30)**  
**(U) Logan Stelter & Zac Sines (5:30)**  
**(A) Adalyn Ursprung & Amelia Flores (8:00)**  
**(U) Caleb Tschudy & Lauren Markevitch (8:00)**  
**(A) Natalee Siech (10:30)**  
**(U) Georgie Markert & Annabelle White (10:30)**

**The faculty at Bethlehem Lutheran School faithfully prays for the students entrusted to their care, along with their families.**

**As Bethlehem congregation members, please add these students and their families to your prayer list.**

**April Prayers**

Aubrey Schallock  
Olivia & Jacob Ostermann  
Zach Hackbarth  
Owen Ellis

Elias Robledo  
Lucciano Ramirez  
Emma & Nora Niles

Theo & Cole Radloff  
Mary Kakuzi  
Gracelyn Koren

Emmett Littmann  
Jacob & Emmett Krautkramer  
Blake Johnson

