✠ The Third Sunday of Easter ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
April 18, 19 & 22, 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

Almighty God, You gave Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Himself. Grant that we, Your adopted children by grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

From *"before the foundation of the world"* until heaven and earth pass away, *"the word of the Lord remains forever"* (1 Peter 1:20, 25). This *"living and abiding word of God"* is the preaching of Christ Jesus, namely that God *"raised him from the dead and gave him glory"* (1 Peter 1:21, 23). By this living word, we *"have been born again"* to eternal life (1 Peter 1:23) and ransomed from our sinful and mortal life *"with the precious blood of Christ"* (1 Peter 1:18–19). This living word also calls us to repentance, to dying and rising in Holy Baptism *"in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"* (Acts 2:38). In this, we receive the Holy Spirit *"for you and for your children and for all who are far off"* (Acts 2:39). Through the preaching of His cross and resurrection, Jesus draws near to bring us *"into his glory"* (Luke 24:26). As He opens the Scriptures, He opens our minds to comprehend *"the things concerning himself"* (Luke 24:27), and He brings us to know Him *"in the breaking of the bread"* (Luke 24:35).

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"ANDANTE CANTABILE"
"LAMB OF GOD"
"HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW"
"PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

578 Thy Strong Word

1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation,
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

Stand

6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

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Remain standing

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 133; antiphon: v.1*

P Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

C **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!**

P It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

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 **Behold, how good and pleasant it is**
when brothers dwell in unity!

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.
O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

First Reading *Acts 2:14a, 36–41*

[14]Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

[36]Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

[37]Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" [38]And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39]For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." [40]And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." [41]So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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

Anthem – Adult Choir (10:30)

Epistle *1 Peter 1:17–25*

[17]If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, [18]knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, [19]but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. [20]He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, [21]who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

[22]Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, [23]since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; [24]for

"All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
[25]but the word of the Lord remains forever."

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

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 *Luke 24:13–35*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named
Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were
talking with each other about all these things that had happened.
15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself
drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from
recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What is this
conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?"
And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named
Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem
who does not know the things that have happened there in these
days?" 19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to
him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet
mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and
how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be
condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that
he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is
now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover,
some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb
early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they
came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels,
who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us
went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but
him they did not see." 25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones,
and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!
26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the
Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things
concerning himself.

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going.
He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him
strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the
day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When
he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and

broke it and gave it to them. [31]And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. [32]They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” [33]And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, [34]saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” [35]Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Sit

Offering (10:30)
Special Music – *“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”*

483 With High Delight Let Us Unite

1 With high delight
Let us unite
In songs of great jubilation.
Ye pure in heart,
All bear your part,
Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free
Forever, He
Is ris’n and sends
To all earth’s ends
Good news to save ev’ry nation.

2 True God, He first
From death has burst
Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy
Doth vanquished lie;
His death has been death’s undoing.
“And yours shall be
Like victory
O’er death and grave,”
Saith He, who gave
His life for us, life renewing.

3 Let praises ring;
Give thanks, and bring

To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed
By word and deed
To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.
So shall His love
Give us above,
From misery
And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

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Sermon

Offering (5:30 and 8:00)
Special Music – *"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"*

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God, begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. 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)

633 - At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

644 - The Church's One Foundation

655 - Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

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.

680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

1 Thine the amen Thine the praise
Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head
Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story
Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

2 Thine the life eternally
Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree
All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing
Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

3 Thine the truly Thine the yes
Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee
Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing
Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise
Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story
Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

5 Thine the glory in the night
No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree
Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy
Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

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POSTLUDE MUSIC

"LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Preacher	**Rev. Jeremy Hanson**
Presiding Minister	**Rev. Patrick Niles**
Organists	**Sandy Kasten** **Susan Wachter**
Special Music	**Sandy Kasten (organ)** **Audrey Braatz (piano)**
Lay Readers	**Jim Schmidt (5:30)** **Luke Timm (8:00)** **Luther Bajus (10:30)** **Randy Holler (6:00)**
Communion Assistants	**Mark Cyr & Phil Ditter (5:30)** **Josh Klug (8:00)** **Brian Hasenstein (10:30)** **Randy Holler (6:00)**
Student Assistants	**(A) Jaxen Freyberg & Elias Robledo (5:30)** **(U) Brady Stelter & Sebastian Taylor (5:30)** **(A) Jaxon Virant & Eoin Irish (8:00)** **(U) Ottis Leibham & Lauren Markevitch (8:00)** **(A) Addie Rouse & Jax Fehlhaber (10:30)** **(U) Mason Bell & Evelyn Grunewald (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.

<u>April Prayers</u>

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