

Third Sunday of Easter

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 14, 2024 – 10:00am

Traditional Worship



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like. During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill out one of the Visitor cards available at our Welcome Table in the Gathering Place

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 10, page 203

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Gathering Hymn *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* **ELW #383**

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Glory to God



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day (All)

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray together... **C: Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

Children's Message

Pr Paul

First Lesson

Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

12 Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. 14 But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this

man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. 17 “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19 Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 4

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 “You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”

3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; the Lord will hear me when I call.

4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

5 Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

6 Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?” Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

8 In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.

Second Lesson

1 John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

S 205a



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord.

36b Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence. 44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright ELW #384*

Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayers of Intercession: response after each petition: **“hear our prayer.”**

(Before prayer) A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news....

(Conclusion) P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering / Offering Song

Zeke Clemons

Offertory

Come to the Table

ELW #481

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

(continued on next page)

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

S207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san-na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high-est.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

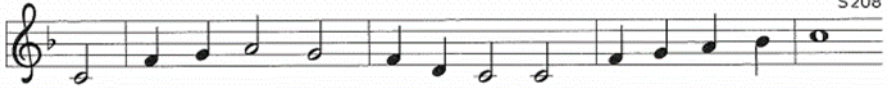
P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***Please note: Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

Communion

Lamb of God

S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Hymns

*Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup
O Day Full of Grace*

*ELW #492
ELW #627*

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

Thankful Hearts



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

ELW #366

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



Bethlehem April 14, 2024
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4/16—Pr Paul Busekist

4/20—Parker Busekist

4/21—Sage Hill

Worship Servants for April 14

Assisting Minister—Peggy Burns

Lector—Barb Graf

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: by Kurkowski Family in Celebration of Daniel Thomas Harrison's baptism (April & Kevin's grandson)

Hospitality—Leonard & Barbara Graf

A/V—Paul Ton, Acker Family

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER; Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table/Bell Ringer—VOLUNTEER/Tim Goebel

Altar Guild—Kate Holtfreter, Barbara Oster

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter, Cindy Cuba

The next Third Thursday service will be a Holden Evening Prayer service on April 18th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. Pr Ruth Overdier will preside and preach. The BLC Fellowship Committee will be providing a meal at 5:45 p.m. Please come early and share in fellowship and stay for the service.

Join us for a Family Movie Night on Saturday, April 20th! We'll have dinner of hotdogs, chips, and drinks at 5:30pm, and the movie will start at 6pm. We'll be watching the Disney Pixar film Elemental. All ages are welcome - bring a friend along with you! Seating will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a folding chair if you prefer. See you there!

FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS: The book club will discuss *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride during a dinner meeting at 5:30 on Tues Apr 23 at The Cottage. Extra copies will be available on the counter below the mailboxes. Just sign your name on the sheet by the corresponding number of your book. If you cannot come to church when it is open please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net and we will make other arrangements.

A Wonderful Easter Brunch Thank you everyone for attending the Easter Brunch. There was a nice variety and a lot of food. We had 60 people attend for food and fellowship. The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped set up and clean up: Dan and Laura Hahn, Tina, Lincoln and Makena Dohm, Renee Wells, Mark and Kathie Bair, Barb Wright, Dale and Barb Wentzloff, Janet Landis, Cindy Monroe, Judy Block, John and Marilyn Halstead, Betty Rutila and Lindsey. I hope I didn't miss anyone. You are all such blessings.

Safety and Security: TORNADO AND BAD WEATHER DRILL: BLC will present a Temple Talk on Sunday, May 5, to give instructions on a Severe Weather Drill. The drill will be held at the end of service with congregants moving to the basement hallway. If unable to go downstairs, we will ask you to move safely to the hallway by the classrooms outside of the Sacristy. This should take only a few minutes and we thank you in advance.

Council Nominations open for council 2024. We have been blessed! Many of the council members have agreed to continue with another term. Have you been thinking this would be a good place for you to increase your involvement at Bethlehem? It involves a 3 year commitment to attend a meeting on the 3rd Tues of the month and perhaps one other meeting per month. The current members are hard-working and dedicated, and always ready with an intelligent question or a quick quip. If this sounds like your kind of people please contact the office at 947-9880 or contact any of the following: Pastor Paul, Cindy Monroe, Paul Wiermerslage, Jana Rockne, or Gary Ancinec. WE would love to have you on the TEAM!

Are you grieving something from a death or something else? It could be any kind of loss, and it hurts. We have a place for you here at Bethlehem on the 3rd Monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 in the library. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

Game Night Let's get together and have some fun at Bethlehem Lutheran Church! Let's play games and have fellowships. Wednesday evening April 24th from 6:30 until 8:30. Bring your favorite game (or some will be provided) and bring a snack to share. Beverages and paper products will be provided. If you have any questions, ask Alanna or Gail.

SPRING GATHERING: ALL women of Bethlehem are invited to the Spring Gathering to be held here at Bethlehem on Saturday, April 27th from 10-3. There is a poster and signup sheet in the Narthex. Please consider joining us to become acquainted with other church women from the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod. We will have Bible Study, worship, craft, food and fun. For further information, please contact Nancy Ammann 946-8433.

New member gathering to be scheduled: Please contact Pastor Paul, the office at 947-9880 or Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net if you are considering membership at Bethlehem. The next gathering will be scheduled for April or May.

Adult Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30am in the Youth Room, with a study of the Acts of the Apostles.

The Zoom Book and Bible Study: meets on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:00pm. The next book will be *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger with the first discussion on Wednesday, April 24th. This group will be transitioning into a hybrid class with not only Zoom participants but anyone who would like to attend in-person in the Youth Room. If you are interested in this book and need a copy, please contact Barbara Oster in the office.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On April 8th, we received a check from Olesons for \$206.60. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!!

Coffee and Cookies on Sunday: Remember that treats and a hot drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. Please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee to give our loyal volunteer Mary Ann Tanis a day off. As requested by some of our new members there is a plan in the works to usually have the final Sunday of the month be a time when we join in the Fellowship Hall. We can sit at a table and chat with someone new while we munch on a treat. Enjoy this experience on April 28!!!

The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.

Sunday, April 14

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Traditional Worship Service (S)

Monday, April 15

4:00pm—Marjorie Whitney funeral (Offsite)
6:00pm—Grief Group (Library)

Tuesday, April 16

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—Property Work Group
9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
12:00pm—Sarah Circle (Library)
6:30pm—Council Meeting (Library)
7:00pm—Lautner SG (Offsite)

Wednesday, April 17

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, April 18

5:30pm—ACA (Library)
5:45pm—Third Thursday Meal (FH)
7:00pm—Third Thursday Service (S)

Friday, April 19

STAR articles due today

10:00am—Sew Pieceful (FH)
1:00pm—Lehto SG (Library)

Saturday, April 20

5:30pm—Movie Night Meal (FH)
6:00pm—Movie Night (FH)

Sunday, April 21

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
1:00pm—Confirmation Class (YR)

