

# Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023 – 10am

Modern Worship, ELW Setting 3



## Pre-Worship Music

## Announcements

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

C: Amen.

*(Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination)*

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

C: Amen.

## Gathering Song:

## *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart; I want to see You, I want to see You.  
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart; I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory. Pour out your pow'r and love;  
as we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

## 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

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: 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.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

**C: O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

*Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

14a Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, 36 Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." 40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Psalm: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 I love the Lord, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

**2 for the Lord has given ear to me whenever I called.**

3 The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

**4 Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray you, save my life."**

12 How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things God has done for me?

**13 I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

14 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people.

**15 Precious in your sight, O Lord, is the death of your servants.**

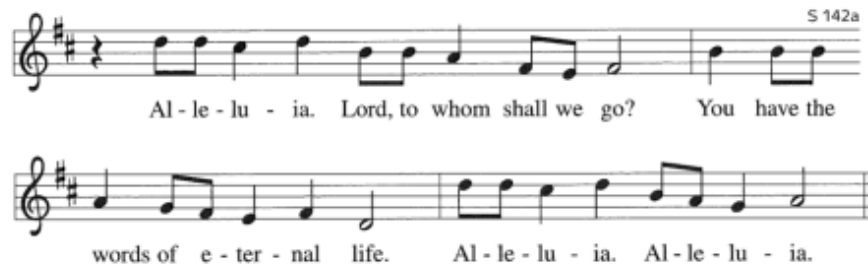
16 O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

**17 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.**

18 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people,  
19 in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

## Gospel Acclamation:

## Alleluia



## Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

13 Now on that same day when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene, two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" 19 He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over 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 took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed 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 they did not see him." 25 Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. 28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

**Song of the Day:**

**Day of Arising**

**ELW #374**

**Baptism of Emmeline Lesoski** (*see special folder*)

**Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace** (*Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.*)

**Offering / Offering Song:**

**Zeke Clemons**

**Offertory:**

***As the Grains of Wheat***

**ELW #465**

**Offering Prayer**

A: Let us pray.

C: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Words of Institution**

**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.

**Communion** (*Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available*)

**Communion Songs:**

***Let Us Break Bread Together  
For the Bread Which You Have Broken***

**ELW #471**

**ELW #494**

**Final Blessing**

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C: Amen.

**Sending Song:**

***Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ***

**ELW #674**

**Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen God.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Bethlehem** April 23, 2023  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
(231) 947-9880  
[www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4/23—Linda Williams

4/26—Roy Dumond

4/25—Sandy Parkinson

4/30—Carolyn Burns

**Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.**

**Please Note:** \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The giving envelopes have arrived! Please pick your box up in the Narthex. Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

**COVID:** Please note that masks are required for unvaccinated persons in worship and highly encouraged for those who are vaccinated.

**Offerings:** The offering plates are now passed during the service. The vase in the back of the Sanctuary is still available for those who prefer not to touch the offering plate.

**Third Thursday:** The next Third Thursday service will be Holden Evening Prayer service on May 18th at 7:00pm. The service will be livestreamed. This will be our last Third Thursday service until September.

**Today's altar flowers are donated by:** Leonard & Barbara Graf in Celebration of our 56th Anniversary.

**The April issue of the STAR is now available.** The May issue will be distributed on April 30th. For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

**Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes?** Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: [bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes](http://bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes) OR you may call the office to request a copy.

**Prayer Requests:**

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at [jstretlien@gmail.com](mailto:jstretlien@gmail.com) or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

**Due Dates for STAR/Bulletin/Screen Announcements:**

- STAR: The third Friday of the month sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Please note STAR in subject line)
- Bulletin/Verbal Announcements: Tuesday of the week sent to [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) (Bulletin/Worship Folder is prepared on Tuesday and printed on Thursday morning.) (Please note Bulletin or Announcement in subject line)
- Screen Announcements/Weekly BLC Emails: Tuesday of the week sent to [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org)

**Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font!** Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at [beo6475@yahoo.com](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com) or 231.668.7038 or in the church office.

**Registration is now open for 2023 Summer Camp in New Era at Stony Lake** - presented by Living Water Ministries. The website is <https://elcalivingwater.com>

**Photo Directory:** We have a chance to make a new directory the final week of Sept., but with any project like this we need volunteers. Please leave your name in the office if you can help on this project in any way. Thanks to those who have already volunteered. And please, try to be in town that week. We want everyone's smiling faces in our new directory.

**Our next New Member Orientation is scheduled for Sunday April 30 after the 10:00 service.** Please join us to find out more about Bethlehem. If you became a member during the time of COVID and did not have the opportunity to enjoy such an orientation, please feel free to join us.

**Choir announcement:** I want to thank those of you who have introduced yourself to me at our Third Thursday and Lenten mid-week services. The trickiest part of my job is trying to connect with a congregation that I don't see often, so I truly appreciate it when you make it a point to say hello to me before or after these services. I also hope you've enjoyed the music the choir has been preparing over the last few months and throughout Holy Week. We've been having fun in our weekly rehearsals. I'd like to thank Sherri Helman and Tim Goebel for stepping up and joining the choir as their time and schedules allow. **The choir will prepare two more anthems before we take some time off for the summer, those will be sung on Sunday, May 7, and Sunday, May 21.** This is a good opportunity for you to try singing in the choir without making a long term commitment. If you can sing along to a song on the radio in the car, you've got all the skills you need to sing in a choir. **Here are the upcoming rehearsal dates (all rehearsals begin at 7:00pm): Tues. April 25, Tues. May 2, Thurs. May 11.** If you want or need to contact me you may do so via email, [bero.tony@gmail.com](mailto:bero.tony@gmail.com) or by texting/calling 231-942-1162. Peace be with you, Tony Bero

**Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years.** They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. Leave them by the garage. These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

**A recent search of the church refrigerator revealed some food that has expired or has been in there for an unknown period of time.** These items have been marked. If you have food items in the refrigerator, please check on them ASAP. Please mark them with your name and date if you wish to keep them. All expired and mysterious foods will be thrown away in the near future, unless they are claimed. Thank you!"

**Sabbatical Team Update:** Something to keep in mind. A ministry sabbatical is different from a traditional academic or business sabbatical. A pastor's sabbatical is about the spirit and soul being refreshed, renewed, and redirected. The intent of a sabbatical, Sabbath, is a time to be silent and listen to God, not attend lectures or write papers. It is a time to be in solitude and to be with God, not "interact" with fatigued peers. If help is to be given to a pastor, it is not going to come by infusion of intellect, but by renewal of the spirit. Depending on what a pastor does while he is gone from his day to day pastoral duties, he will come back even more skilled and talented than when he left.

**Thank you to all those who have contributed to the Sabbatical Fund.** At last count, we have collected over \$14,000. Our goal is \$15,000 so if you would still like to contribute, we welcome it.

**BLC Book Club:** The BLC book club's Apr meeting is on the 25th at 5:30 via ZOOM. The book this month is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Michele Richardson. Copies are available in the Book Club box outside the front doors. Cindy is planning to learn how to do a "Hybrid" meeting this month so that in the future those who want to come to church can do so and those who want to participate on "ZOOM" can also do that. If you are not on the email list and want to be involved send your information to [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net).

**The newest Living Lutheran magazine and the April/May/June Christ in Our Home** can be picked up at the welcome table on Sunday mornings or from the Shooting STAR box below the outside mailbox

**Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations?** It has been moved inside the coat room to the right.

**Coffee and Cookies:** You are welcome to stay after the Sunday service for coffee, cookies and conversation. This will be done as many Sundays as there are volunteers to make the coffee and/or bring cookies, etc. There is a sign-up sheet available near the cookies. There are open dates, so please sign up!

**Name tags:** Your name tags are back in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it. If you notice a visitor, please encourage them to make a nametag which are kept with the welcome notebook.

**Adult Bible Study gets together on Wednesdays from 9:30am-11:30am.** It is a casual discussion of the Gospel of Luke. Bring your bibles and come, share, learn and grow with us.

**The Zoom Bible Study:** meets on Wednesdays from 1:30pm—3:00pm. Beginning on April 26th, this group will study *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation* by Parker Palmer. Contact Pr Paul for Zoom information.

**We had a successful Easter Brunch**, and I would like to thank the people who helped. Jacque Rossfeld, Nancy Ammann, Sally Ton, and Dan Hahn arrived at the church on Saturday morning, April 8, to set everything up. With the help of Judy Block, they also cleaned up after the meal. The ladies did a wonderful job of decorating the tables to make everything look colorful and fresh in celebration of our risen Savior!

No celebration is complete without delicious food, and there was plenty of it. The Fellowship Committee provided sausage links and beverages, and the rest of the food was donated by generous members of the congregation. Thanks to everyone who helped, in ways both big and small!

**HOT OFF THE PRESS:** We have one more activity to add to the Sabbatical renewal for members... assured by its leader to be a source of fun and laughter while encouraging good health... **PICKLEBALL!!!** Our own esteemed teacher of the sport, Dale Wentzloff has offered to give FREE classes to BEGINNERS. You will learn rules, scoring, strategy in a planned injury-free environment. You just need to have sturdy walking or running shoes. Everything else will be provided. The classes will occur by the Dog Park at the corner of Division and the Parkway. Please sign-up on the sheets in the Narthex and indicate your available times. Dale suggests mornings or evenings to avoid the heat of the day. See you on the courts!

**FOOD PANTRY:** With the return of good weather, we will also be opening up our outdoor food pantry to the community. Please be watching for special deals so you can help us restock our pantry for the warmer months.

**BABY PANTRY:** Suggested donations for April are: tissues, toilet paper, cleaning products such as hand soap, all purpose cleaner, laundry soap. Thank you!

**A big thank you to all who turned in Olesons' receipts.** We just received a check from them for \$304.88. Last year received \$651.20. Let's see if we can do even better this year! Please continue to drop off your receipts at Bethlehem. Please note they do not expire. Thank you!

**Hoop's Pet Food Pantry:** This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC from 1100am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month with your donations OR you may leave donations in the tub on our "donations" table in the coat room. The volunteers have expressed their appreciation when receiving our donations. Please note that they are anticipating an increased need over the winter.

**2023 Relay for Life:** The American Cancer Society will be holding their annual 24-Hour Relay for Life event on Saturday, June 10, 2023 starting at 10 AM with an opening ceremony to Sunday, June 11, 2023 ending at 10 AM at the Grand Traverse Mall. As a long-time volunteer with the organization, I would like to request your support in the form of monetary donations to the American Cancer Society in support of this great cause, which will impact so many wonderful people who need your help. Thank you very much for your generous donations in the past, which helped the American Cancer Society provide more programs and do more research and advocacy for cancer patients and their caregivers. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is really appreciated!

**Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about?** Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to [alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org) If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.

**Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service.** Please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

Join the Grand Traverse Conservation District for their upcoming workbee:

- May 13th: Hickory Meadows Volunteer Workbee-register and information at <https://natureiscalling.org/events/hickory-meadows-volunteer-workbee-1>

**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 23**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

12:30pm—Confirmation (YR)

**Tuesday, April 25**

**Bulletin articles due today**

9:00am—Property Work Group

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)

5:30pm—Book/Supper Club (CR or Zoom)

6:30pm—Newcomers (FH)

7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Wednesday, April 26**

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (YR)

11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)

1:00pm—Johnson SG (Offsite)

1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study

**Thursday, April 27**

5:30pm—ACA

**Friday, April 28**

6:00pm—All Star DE (FH)

**Sunday, April 30**

10:00am—Worship Service (S)

11:30pm—New Member Meeting

2:00pm—WELCA Fun Day (FH)

