

Second Sunday of Easter

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

April 12, 2026
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



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 in your name, address, etc in the guest book near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright ELW 384*

Greeting

A: 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



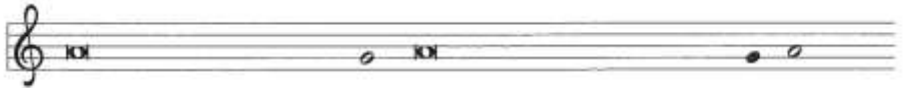
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God



5148

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



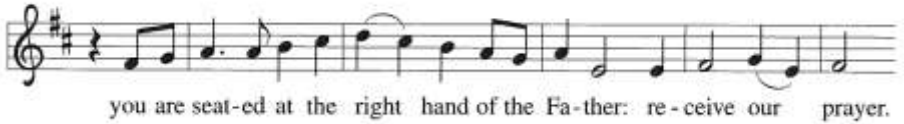
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



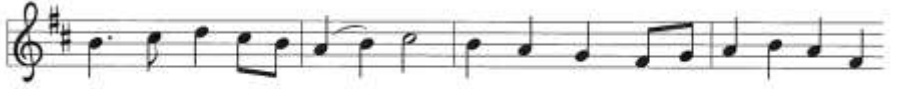
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Prayer of the Day

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

A: Let us pray together... **C:** **Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

Pr. Paul

WORD

First Lesson

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

14a Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know 23 this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24 But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25 For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always

before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ 29 “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ 32 “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 16

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

2 All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.

3 But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

4 I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.

5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

8 I have set the Lord always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second Lesson

1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ’s resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled,

and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 7 so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia*



Gospel

John 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

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

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” 24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” 26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see

my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing* *ELW 386*
(v. 1 and 4-8)

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; 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: **“Receive our prayer.”**

(Before prayer) A: Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation....

(Conclusion) P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. C: **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering

Offertory

Come to the Table

ELW 481

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

S 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

(continued on next page)

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.

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.

Communion

Lamb of God

5 154
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

*I Come with Joy
By Your Hand You Feed Your People*

ELW 482

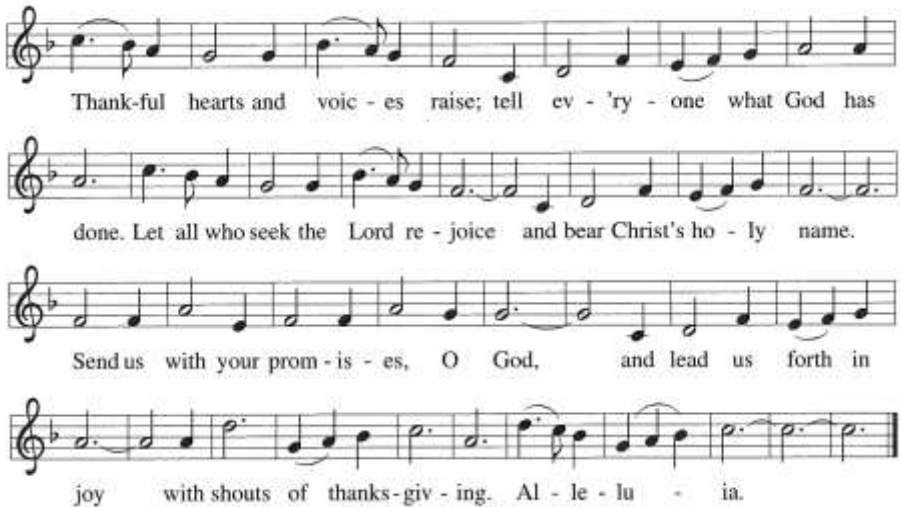
ELW 469

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, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

ELW 367

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem April 12, 2026
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

4/12—Ellie Shaw

4/16—Paul Busekist

Worship Servants for April 12

Preaching & Presiding—Pr. Paul
Busekist

Assisting Minister—Barbara Wright

Lector—Jan Stretlien

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke

Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr
Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By*

Frank & Pat Wall in Memory of Pat's

Mother's Heavenly Birthday

Hospitality—Dan & Laura Hahn

A/V—Jim Hinds / Paul Ton

Cookies/Coffee—Diane Cunningham;
Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitor: Craig & Maureen
Bauer

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin
Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy
Cuba

A NOISY OFFERING is coming!! We have not had one for years. Our synod is requesting that all participating congregations make an offering of coins to bring to the synod assembly May 15-16. From April 12 thru May 10 we will be collecting coins which will be divided between Lutheran Disaster Response Ukraine and Samaritans-New Americans. So search those pockets, purses, cushions etc. and bring in any coins you can spare. (Bills and checks also accepted even though they don't jingle-jangle). Any questions can be directed to BLC's voting delegates, Peggy Burns, Jim Monroe, and Cindy Monroe.

Third Thursday is April 16th. Join us for a delicious meal beginning at 5:45pm. Then stay for the Jazz Vespers beginning at 7:00pm.

Join Your Creation Care Team on our next hike. We are scheduled for April 19 at 12Noon at Timber Ridge Campground. Plan to pack a picnic as weather permits. They have a pavilion on site. God's creation is plentiful.

Sunday School and Sunday's Adult Education hold their classes at 9:15am on Sunday.

The Wednesday Zoom Book/Bible Study meets at 1:30pm with a study a new book, *Mary's Memoirs The Hidden Years*. See Pr. Paul or Barbara if you have any questions.

SPRING FLING: Sunday, April 26th at Noon. Potluck lunch: salad and fixins', rolls & butter and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. **THEME:** "Pampered: Inner & Outer Beauty". Speaker is from the GT Beauty Academy who will focus on skin, hair and nail care and she will provide us with a couple of surprises. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. *Please sign up by April 19th.* Join us for a fun day of pampering!

Board games, card games, Wii games, and food! Join us for a fun night on **Friday, May 1st at 6pm!** (Please note that this is a new date!) We'll have the big TV screen set up for Wii games, board and card games galore, and hotdogs to keep us all fed and happy. It'll be a fun time, so mark it on your calendar and plan to be there! Bring a friend and be ready to play!

Mac 'n Cheese Cook-Off: Raise Funds for Youth! Get ready to get your competition on! We're changing it up from our traditional chili cook-off fundraiser this year and trying something new with a mac 'n cheese cook-off, all to raise funds for our youth program! If you have a delicious mac n' cheese recipe that you want to enter in the competition, let Alanna Steffunick-Boomer know and she'll add you to the list! And of course, even if you don't want to enter, plan to be here on **Sunday, May 3rd after worship** with your tasting spoon ready - we'll need people to vote for their favorites so we can crown our winners!

Creation Care Team update: our next Creation Care core team meeting will be **Monday, May 4th at 6pm** in the Youth Room. Subcommittee members may be meeting before as needed. Contact Paul Wiemerslage, Tina Dohm or Pastor Paul for any updates.

Verse O.N.T.A.P.: Do you like the Beatles, Pat Benatar, Bob Marley, Elvis (and other artists from the last few decades)? Turns out that scripture has some things to say about love, relationship, and some connections to these rockers' lyrics! Check out Verse O.N.T.A.P. on Sunday, May 17th 5:30pm-7:00pm at The Workshop 221 Garland St.

Let's Celebrate! Bethlehem paid off the mortgage to the church in November, so let's celebrate. Our Congregational meeting will be on June 14th, so after the meeting we will have a party and burn the old mortgage (copy). We can use a few people to be on the planning committee. Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to help out.

Spotlight on Zeke: So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

4/15, 4/22, 4/29 – The Pub TC, Traverse City 7:00pm