



Easter Sunday Worship

✠ THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD -- EASTER DAY ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
March 31, 2024 6:00am, 8:00am, 10:30am

WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME

Welcome to our guests and members on this joyful Easter Day!
Please place your names in our red "Record of Fellowship" books.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O God, You gave Your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by His glorious resurrection You delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with Him forever in the joy of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Lord has promised to *"create new heavens and a new earth"* (Is. 65:17), in which His people shall abide in peace and joy. That new creation has begun in the bodily resurrection of Christ Jesus. All the baptized belong to that new creation. Reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, they are *"the offspring of the blessed of the Lord"* (Is. 65:23). The Lord rejoices and is glad in them. He hears and answers their prayers. For *"if in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied"* (1 Cor. 15:19). But Christ Jesus has been raised, *"the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep"* (1 Cor. 15:20). We may be *"perplexed about this"* (Luke 24:4), perhaps even frightened and brought to our knees. But faith clings to the Word of Christ and finds His resurrected body — not in the tomb, but in His Holy Supper.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

(Please stand and face the Processional Cross at the rear of the church, turning toward the altar as it passes.)

457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

- 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

P Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

CONFESSION OF SINS

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.**

P Let us 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.**

KYRIE

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

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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,

and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,

for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,

“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

This is the LORD; we have waited for him;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem – Adult Choir, “A Festive Alleluia” (6:00, 8:00, 10:30)

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel

Mark 16:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

C **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

Offering (10:30)

Anthem – Bellaires, "An Easter Celebration"

461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

- 3 He lives to bless me with His love;
 He lives to plead for me above;
 He lives my hungry soul to feed;
 He lives to help in time of need.
- 4 He lives to grant me rich supply;
 He lives to guide me with His eye;
 He lives to comfort me when faint;
 He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

5 ADULT CHOIR ONLY

- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name!
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

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SERMON

OFFERING (6:00 & 8:00)

ANTHEM – BELLAIRES, "AN EASTER CELEBRATION"

THE 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.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 INSTITUTION

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 is my ✠ blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

THE PEACE

P The ✠ peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

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.

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

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
 Praise to our victorious King,
 Who has washed us in the tide
 Flowing from His pierced side.
 Alleluia!
- 2 Praise we Him, whose love divine
 Gives His sacred blood for wine,
 Gives His body for the feast—
 Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
 Alleluia!
- 3 Where the paschal blood is poured,
 Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
 Israel's hosts triumphant go
 Through the wave that drowns the foe.
 Alleluia!
- 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
 Paschal victim, paschal bread;
 With sincerity and love
 Eat we manna from above.
 Alleluia!
- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
 Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight,
 You have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall,
 Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise,
 And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!

- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!

Stand

- 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

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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!

Text: Public domain

629 What Is This Bread

- 1 What is this bread?
Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break,
This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.
- 2 What is this wine?
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace
Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see—the Lord is King.
- 3 So who am I,
That I should live and He should die
Under the rod?
My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.
- 4 Yet is God here?
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul
He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.
- 5 Is this for me?
I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe
That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

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477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

- 1 Alleluia, alleluia!
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
Now is risen from the dead.
- 2 Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow'rs of evil
In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried:
Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
Whom we worship and adore.
- 3 Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior
Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia
To the triune Majesty!

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Please stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

- C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ry-one 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 with 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

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.

463 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

- 1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!
- 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!
- 3 Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
- 4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Text: Public domain

**Easter Breakfast
Served in the Parish Activity Center
7:00AM - 10:00AM
Everyone is welcome!**

FLOWERS

**For those who contributed to the Easter decoration fund, please
feel free to choose and take your flowers
after the 10:30am service today.**

ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Preacher
Presiding Minister
Organist

Rev. Patrick Niles
Rev. Jeremy Hanson
Sandy Kasten

Special Music

Adult Choir
Bellaires

Trumpet
Trombone
Tuba
Euphonium

Ben Vanic
Ayden Wildman & Sam Detlaff
Brandon Nikisch
Eric Johnson

Lay Readers

Pat Vanic (6:00)
Nancy Brown (8:00)
Sue Kubow (10:30)

Communion Assistants

Pat Vanic (6:00)
Doug Hasenstein (8:00)
Luther Bajus (10:30)

Student Assistants

A - McCoy Michael & Emerson Leibham (6:00)
U - Lauren Cyr & Maizy Boerger (6:00)
Cross Bearer - Graysen Seyferth (6:00)
A - Nate Vanic & Cassi Hanson (8:00)
U - Axton Weisfeld & Alaina Lindsay (8:00)
Cross Bearer - Shinji Chang (8:00)
A - Connor Barts & Hank Scholz (10:30)
U - Lucy Lemus & Tevin Davis (10:30)
Cross Bearer - Isaiah Niles (10:30)

