

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Sunday, April 20, 2025



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering – Welcoming – Serving – Restoring

WHO WE ARE

*As forgiven children of God, Bethlehem Lutheran Church
shows Christ's love through acts of service
so that we can share the hope of the Gospel with others.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so glad you're here! Bethlehem is a caring community of believers committed to being a birthplace of hope in southeast Fort Wayne. We are a congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, where Christ's sacrificial love shapes who we are and how we serve.

Our worship centers on God's gifts to us in His Word and Sacraments. Here, Jesus meets us through His promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or your spiritual home, you are part of our family today.

Thank you for joining us as we rest in God's grace and grow in His love. May you be refreshed by the beauty of Christ's sacrifice and sent out to reflect His light in the world!

HOLY COMMUNION EXAMINATION

In the Bible the Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (I Corinthians 11:28) In order to examine yourself before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am I sorry for my sins?
(Proverbs 28:13; Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-9)

Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death offers me forgiveness for all my sins?
(Romans 5:8; Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; I John 1:7)

Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in and with the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present)?
(Matthew 26:26-28; I Cor. 10:16; I Cor. 11:24-25)

Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God-pleasing life?
(Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Romans 6:12)

If you are unable to answer "yes" to these questions or believe further instruction is needed, please talk to a pastor or an elder before communing as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritually harmful (I Corinthians 11:27-29). If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. If not, adults and children who have not yet taken part in communion instruction classes are invited to come forward for a blessing and are asked to keep their arms folded over their chest during the distribution.

***(Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex.
Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.)***

+ PREPARATION +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELLS

(Stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

LSB #457

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which He en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
△ 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise e - ter - nal as His love; Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
Now a - bove the sky He's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

INVOCATION AND EASTER ACCLAMATION

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

Congregation Amen.

Pastor Christ is risen!

Congregation He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Christ is risen!

Congregation He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Christ is risen!

Congregation He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor He is risen indeed, even as He said to the apostle John on Patmos,

Congregation “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Pastor Knowing that Jesus is the Head of the church, do you confess that you are a sinner?

Congregation Yes, I confess that I am a sinner with no hope of heaven on my own.

Pastor What then is your hope?

Congregation My hope is that Christ suffered for my sins on the cross and died, and was raised back to life, and He now offers the forgiveness to me, not because of what I have done, but by faith in believing what He did forgives my every sin.

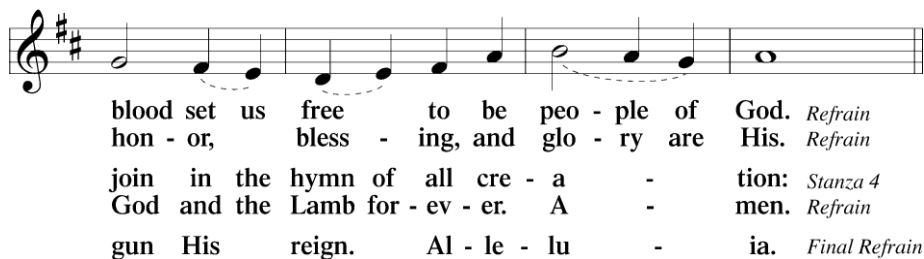
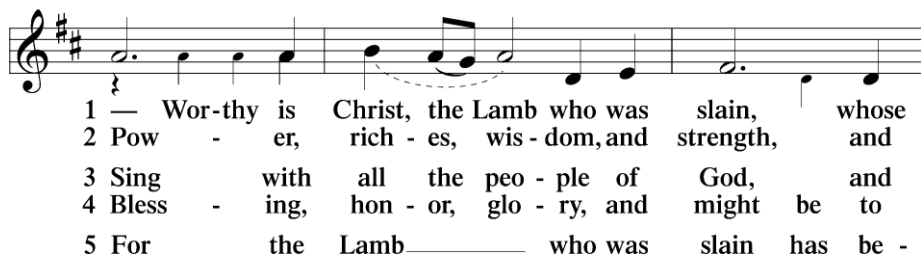
Pastor Jesus called people to a holy life, telling them, “Go and sin no more.” Do you promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, that you will amend your sinful life?

Congregation Yes, I promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life, turning away from sin as I am strengthened by the Holy Spirit to lead a life that glorifies God.

Pastor Then hear the great news on the anniversary of that great third day: as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen! He is risen indeed!

THIS IS THE FEAST



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray. Almighty God, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

(Sit)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Handbells

“Voluntary from Judas Maccabeus”

+ *WORD* +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷“Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. ²⁴Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB pg. 156



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:1-12

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ²And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” ⁸And they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, ¹¹but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

ANTHEM

Choir

“Easter Carol” (Philip Le Bas)

- 1 Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and hope triumphant say, Christ will rise on Easter Day.
- 2 While the patient earth lies waking,
Till the glow of morn is breaking,
Shudd'ring 'neath the burden dread of her Master cold and dead,
Hark! She hears the angels say, Christ will rise on Easter Day.
- 3 And when sunrise strikes the mountains,
Pouring light from heav'nly fountains,
Then the earth blooms out to greet once again the blessed feet;
And her countless voices say, Christ has ris'n on Easter Day.
- 4 Up and down our lives obedient,
Walk, dear Christ, with footsteps radiant.
Till a garden we shall be, Fair with fruits and flow'rs for thee;
And our thankful spirits say, Christ arose on Easter Day

SERMON

“A Hope Against Hope”

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

(Sit)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Handbells

“Fanfare”

OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 159



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

+ SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

PREFACE

LSB pg. 160

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

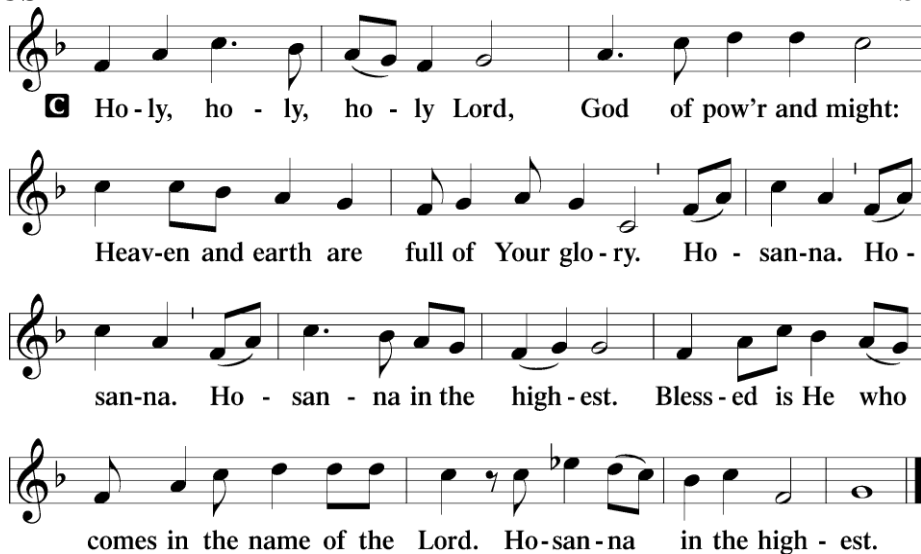
Congregation It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

LSB pg. 161

SANCTUS

LSB pg. 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB pg. 162

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

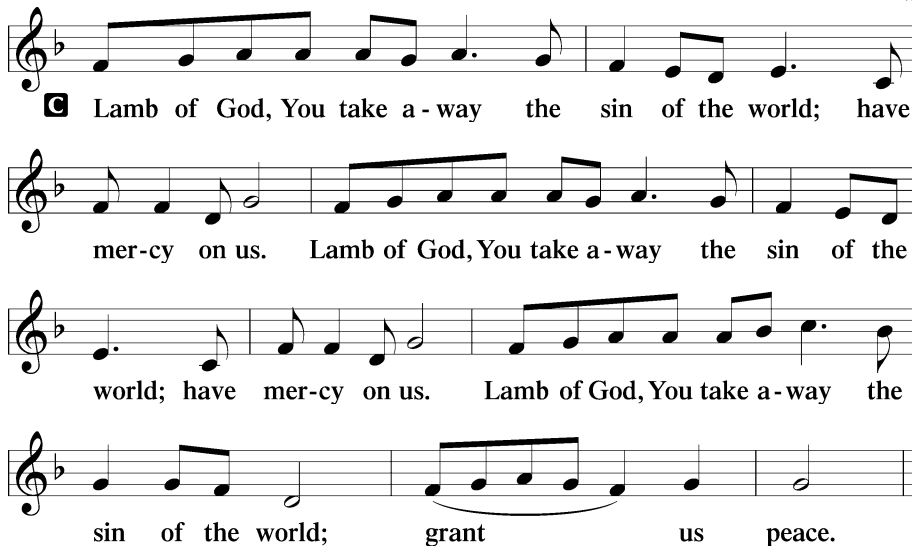
PAX DOMINI

LSB pg. 163

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Congregation Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB pg.163



□ 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.

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

Choir

“Easter Song” (arr.by Daniele Colla)

- 1 Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain.
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain.
Love lives again that with the dead has been.
Love has come again like wheat that springeth green.
- 2 In the grave they laid Him, love whom men had slain.
Thinking that never He would wake again.
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen.
Love has come again like wheat that springeth green.
- 3 Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain.
He that for three days in the grave had lain.
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen.
Love has come again like wheat that springeth green.

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
 3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
 4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
 guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
 me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.

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!

(Stand)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

LSB pg.164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

Congregation And His mercy endures forever.

Pastor Let us pray. We give You thanks, almighty God, for giving us this Meal and celebrating it on the third day, even as He promised. We thank You for giving us pardon and peace by Your Son's true body and blood. Help us live and ever be guided by Your Holy Spirit, that we might bring forth the fruits of faith, and finally on the Last Day, be seated with Abraham and Isaac at the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end; through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor 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.

Congregation Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor Christ is risen!

Congregation He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

(Sit)

HYMN

NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS

LSB #465

1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
△ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And

praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!

He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our

clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
life And by His pres - ence stills all
day That by our lives we tru - ly
Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly

here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The following provided lilies to beautify the chancel today:

- Rick and Kathy Brehm in memory of Norma Saalfrank.
- Brian Bates in memory of Robert and Dolores Bates.
- Dan Bates in memory of Robert and Dolores Bates.
- John and Ruth Bates in memory of Robert and Dolores Bates.
- Kyle and Donna Calloway in memory of friends and family who have gone before us.
- Rhonda Cheng in memory of Alex Cheng.
- Sharon Dietrich in memory of her parents Edgar and Lillian Dietrich.
- Glenn and Suzie Emley in memory of Harry and Dorothy Boze and Jack and Dennis Emley.
- Greg and Cathy Finner in memory of Viola Finner.
- Ina Gaunt in memory of her sisters, Carol and Sharon.
- Melody King in memory of Helen, Floyd, Della Kay, and Bob.
- Ken and Joyce Knipstein in memory of their parents.
- Bob and Jane Miller in memory of F.L. and Florence Miller, and Ralph and Paula Bernecker.
- Paul Nielsen in memory of Walt and Betty Nielsen.
- Elfriede Plettner in memory of her husband, George Plettner.
- John and Linda Stafford in memory of Courtland Eloise Eylenberg and Clyde and Estalene Stafford.

MINISTRY TEAM

The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer

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Kasey Needham Hapner, Music Director

Email kaseyneedham92@gmail.com.

Janelle Deal, Organist

Email janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Greg Shediack

Vice President – Evans Branigan

Secretary – John Stafford

Treasurer – Brian Bates

At Large Members:

Dan Bates

Rachelle Dance

David Schult

Blake Sebring

SCHOOLS

Lutheran South Unity School.....lsusfw.org.....**744-0459**

Concordia Lutheran High School.....clhscadets.com.....**483-1102**

COUNSELING NEEDS

Please talk to Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer for a referral for counseling to Cross Connections.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

www.bethlehemlcms.org

Church Office, (260) 744-3228 Fax Number, (260) 744-3229

Office Hours: 10:00am – 4:00pm (Monday – Friday)

Our Worship Schedule:

Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm

Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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