

Welcome to  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

*Loving God, Serving Others*

*Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day*

April 5, 2026



This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

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.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

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.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

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.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

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.

**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 365

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 you 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!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

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

# KYRIE



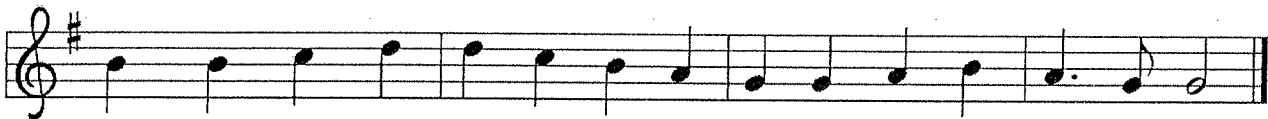
1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



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

**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, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **First Reading: Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

*This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)*

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> "This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."

<sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.



The gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10**

*Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

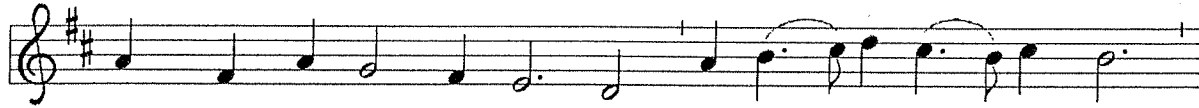
<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

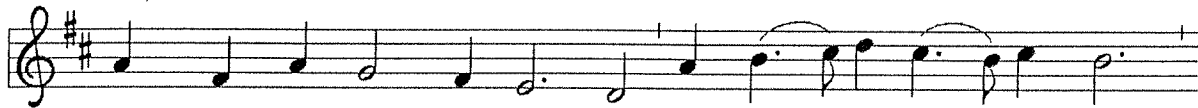
**MESSAGE**

**REV. BOB HANSEN**

## Awake, My Heart, with Gladness



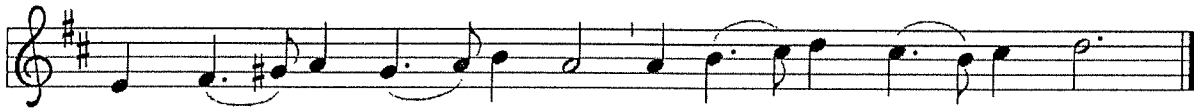
1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, see what to - day is done;  
 2 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, of all their pow'r are shorn;  
 3 This is a sight that glad - dens—what peace it does im - part!  
 4 Now I will cling for - ev - er to Christ, my Sav - ior true;  
 5 Christ brings me to the por - tal that leads to bliss un - told,



now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes forth the glo - rious sun.  
 now I am safe from e - vil, and sin I laugh to scorn.  
 Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the joy with - in my heart.  
 my Lord will leave me nev - er, what - e'er he pass - es through.  
 where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid where our bed must be made  
 For Christ a - gain is free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry  
 No gloom shall ev - er shake, no foe shall ev - er take,  
 He rends death's i - ron chain; he breaks through sin and pain;  
 "Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown pre - pared;



when, as on wings in flight, we soar to realms of light.  
 he who is strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
 the hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.  
 he shat - ters hell's grim thrall; I fol - low him through all.  
 who there with me has died shall here be glo - ri - fied."

## NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

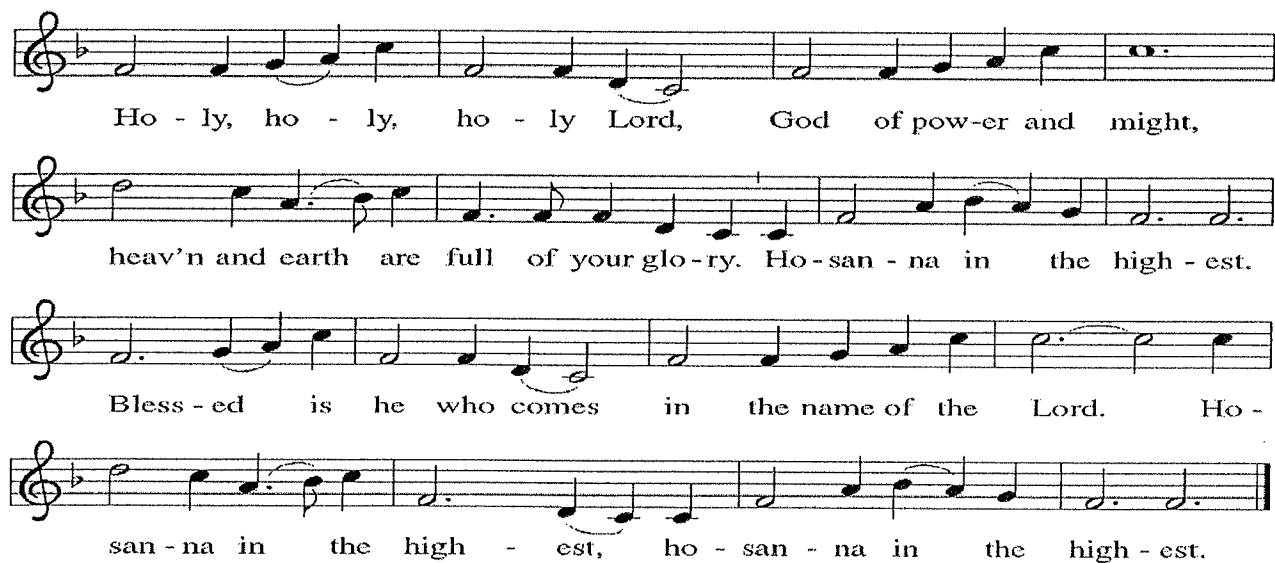
### OFFERING PRAYER

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

The Lord be with you.  
And also 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



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*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

### **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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.



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.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**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,**

**Amen.**

### SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in his mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

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.

**Amen.**

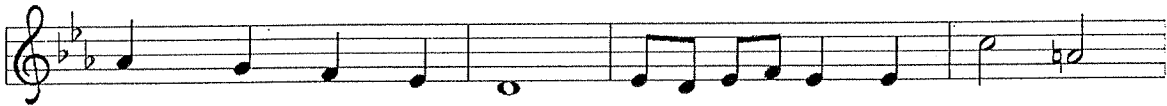
Thine Is the Glory



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

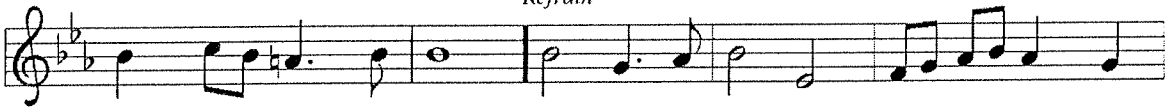


vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*



where thy bod - y lay,  
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939  
Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS. George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

**Presiding today:**  
**Rev. Bob Hansen**  
**Michael Graddy - Musician**  
**Judy Sisler - Reader**

### *OFFICE HOURS/CONTACT INFORMATION:*

*Monday - Thursday; 8 am - 1 pm*  
*Phone: 815-758-3203*  
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*Facebook: bethlehemdekalb*

Easter Lillies given by.....

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Bob &amp; Donna Rae Ewing &amp; family</b> | <b>In memory of Loved Ones</b>                      |
| <b>Pastor Bob &amp; Lynn Hansen</b>           | <b>In honor of our Families</b>                     |
| <b>Margie Hargrave</b>                        | <b>In memory of Loved Ones</b>                      |
| <b>Don &amp; Sherry Krehl</b>                 | <b>In memory of Loved Ones</b>                      |
| <b>Amanda Luchsinger</b>                      | <b>In memory of Mary Pecalunis</b>                  |
| <b>Bruce &amp; Barb Luchsinger</b>            | <b>In memory of Karen Luchsinger</b>                |
| <b>Bill &amp; Deb Perian</b>                  | <b>In honor of our Children &amp; Grandchildren</b> |
| <b>Ed &amp; Judy Sisler</b>                   | <b>In memory of our Parents</b>                     |
| <b>Andy &amp; Debbie Velez</b>                | <b>In memory of John, Rose, Denise Stokes</b>       |
|   | <b>Jackie Velez, Elmer Velez</b>                    |