

4th Sunday of Easter, Year B

April 21, 2024

Pastor Kim Swenson



The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

Worship Volunteers

Assisting Minister: Kay Zastrow

Reader: Michael Zastrow

Altar Guild: Debra Kasulke

Communion Assistant: Sheila Greenwood

Ushers: Howard & Dawn Schroeder

Video Tech: Doug Scholes

Prelude

Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning, you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

**When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.**

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.

**Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.**

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

This Is the Feast

(setting 3)

pg. 140-141

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a 'Refrain' label and contains the melody for 'This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,'. The second staff continues with 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb' and includes a double bar line. The third staff concludes with 'who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.'



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

The grace we discover on Easter morn,
 the love of God that opens the world to a new day,
 and the community that gathers in the Spirit of the Risen One,
 be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, O Lord Christ, **good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Bethel Choir

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 (read responsively by verse)

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

**⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;**

**for you are with me;
your rod and your staff —
they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord;
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

The Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

Sermon



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

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;
he 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 the People

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply

love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For what else do the people of God Pray?

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always,
And also with you.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, 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.

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.

Thanks and praise fill our hearts, Almighty God,
for you are the Lord of creation and new creation,
of covenant and new covenant.
You brought your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land, and
you brought your Son from the depth of death
to the glory of resurrection life.
And so we gladly thank you,
with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending praise.

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.

Joy and gladness are our song, redeeming God, for in your conquest of death we see the destiny of every hope in you.

For on the night before Jesus was arrested, he gathered with his friends for a meal.

This was not their first meal together.

These disciples had eaten with tax collectors and on mountainsides.

They'd had fish and loaves in mixed company and meals on the road. For them, this was another night with another meal.

But on this night, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup. Again, he gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Hope and glory are our breath, merciful God,
for you have rolled away the stone of despair,
the stone of oppression, the stone of lament, the stone of grief,
the stone of death, the stone of sin, the stone of fear.

Shape your church to be your risen body;
make our scars beautiful like your scars,
make our lives a life-giving link to your life,
and make our communion holy with your saints,
until you come again in glory
to you Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, ever one God. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.



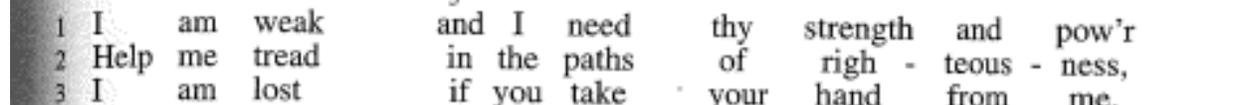
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



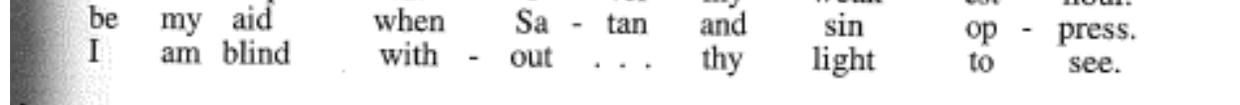
1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r



2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,



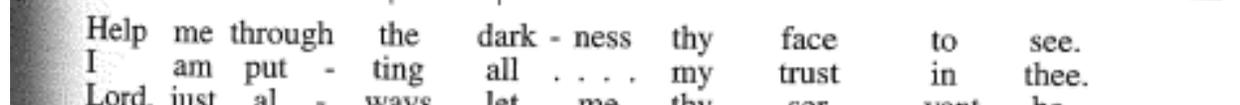
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



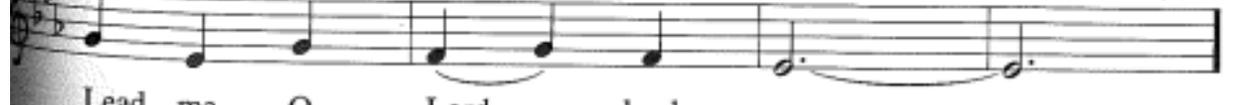
to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.



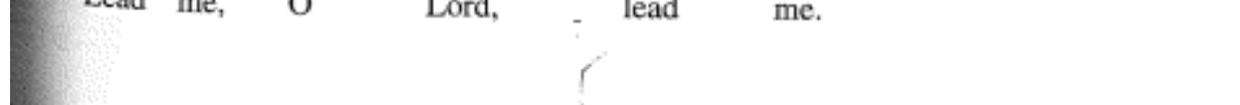
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.



I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.

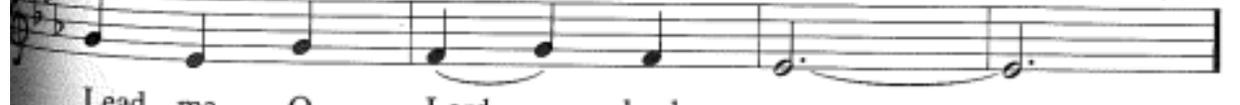


I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.



Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Announcements

Benediction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

Cranberry 544



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.
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Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Fellowship hour continues in the lounge.

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 4/16/24 \$ 10,747.40

Monthly Budget Expenses:..... \$ 18,743.00

YTD Receipts through 3/31/24..... \$ 67,298.00

Yearly Budget..... \$ 224,917.00

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Please, if you are able to help on a future date in May, sign up in the hallway. Thank you to the Andrews: Laurie, June and Carl for hosting today.

Pastor Bill Lawson: Passed away April 11th. Visitation will be at Grace Lutheran Church on April 21st from 1-3pm and Celebration of Life follow, at 3pm.

Bethel Volunteer Opportunities: We are looking for someone to be a money counter. Teams are set-up to run for 8 weeks, twice per year. Each team determines what day and time they count. In addition, we are always looking for Assisting Ministers, Readers, Ushers, Altar Guild, Communion Assistants and Video Techs. Please contact the church office if you are willing to volunteer your time.

Synod Assembly Service Project: Is for the Crossways Camping wish list. If you would like to donate to the project, please put your offering in an envelope marked "Crossways". Paster Kim will purchase items from the wish list and bring them to the Synod Assembly.

Vicar Melissa: Has been called to be Pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Please stand-by for more details regarding her installation.

Handbags for Hope: In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to bring in any unwanted purses. Donations are also needed of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin.

Bethel Photo Directory: If you haven't already done so, please submit a recent photo for the new church directory. It can be emailed to the church or brought to the office for scanning.

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #22041

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